# THE HINDOO PATRIOT

## With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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## THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 3RD JANUARY.

IT IS STATED that the new Finance Minister is making an energetic enquiry as to what has become of the "missing millions!" It is said that he presides daily over a committee comprising the Financial Secretary, the Comptroller-General and the officers of the Military Accounts Department and there is but little doubt that the discoveries that are being made as to the manner in which the military accounts have been kept, will lead very shortly to more competent officers being appointed to keep those accounts in future. Cannot Madame Blavatsky assist the Finance Minister in tracing the "missing millions?"

ACCORDING to a London paper, the gross annual income of about 800 of the London charities amounts to a sum of four millions and a quarter sterling. This seems an enormous sum to be raised by voluntary contributions and endowments. But it also says something for a city that can afford to be thus generous. The income of rent-free lands in India alienated for religious purposes and for the benefit of learned and pious Brahmins is also enormous.

DR. HENRY DRAPER, the famous discoverer of oxygen in the sun, has succeeded in taking a distinct photograph of the bright part in the nebulæ of Orion. The mottled appearance of this vast sheet of glowing gases has been fixed very well by an exposure of fifty minutes. The extreme sensitiveness of dry plates over the wet ones, coupled with their power of standing a long exposure to the object adapts them for this delicate work, and a new field for astronomical research is opened up.

GOLD is being found in Ceylon. That which has been for some time anticipated as a probable result, having reference to geological formations, appears, says the *Ceylon Times*, to be on the point of realisation. A veritable nugget of pure gold has been taken in its free state from a stream in which were also found garnets, corundums, and tourmaliness, all more or less waterwashed. A Siamese paper says that there are rumours in circulation that gold has been discovered in one of the northern provinces of Siam, and that a rich specimen was recently brought to Bangkok.

MAJOR BARING *en route* to India was honored at Cairo. On the 7th December the Khedive gave a dinner in honour of Major and Mrs. Baring. On the 8th instant, H. E. Riaz Pasha entertained Major Baring at luncheon at the Khedival Club. On the 9th instant, Major and Mrs. Baring left Cairo for Suez to proceed by the outward Indian mail steamer for their destination. A large number of the principal residents at Cairo were at the station, including Mr. Malet, the Controller-General, the Ministers, &c. Tunino Bey attended on behalf of the Khedive to say farewell to the parting guest. It is evident, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that Major Baring's eminent services to Egypt are fully appreciated, for he has been the object of marked and flattering attention during his short stay in Cairo. It is greatly to the praise of the Egyptians that they should so spontaneously and gratefully acknowledge the services rendered to their country by a foreign official.

THE WARDROBE AND JEWELS of the late Margaret Duchess of Somerset were sold by public auction. The catalogue, compiled from an inventory carefully kept by the late Duchess, and which in itself is a curiosity, consists of what, in the language of the auctioneer, would be termed one thousand five hundred and forty-seven lots, containing as many suits of female attire as would decently equip a regiment of Amazons!

TUESDAY, 4TH JANUARY.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following message from the Press Commissioner:

Following telegram has been received from Kandahar dated 31st December. It is reported from Herat that Ayub is collecting the Herati regiments defeated at Kandahar with intention of sending them to Taiwara to attack the Taimani tribes. Abubbaka Aligai has arrived in Herat with thirty followers. The Herat ryots are in distress owing to the Sirdars forced requisitions of grain and other supplies. The people of Maimanah continue neutral. A traveller from Kabul says the Amir is about to send four regiments against the Taraki Ghilzais, who continue rebellious and exact tolls on passing caravans. The Amir has granted the Kohistanis remission of revenue amounting to Rs 18000. Colonel St John accompanied by general Wilkinson and a large party of officers escorted by a troop of 13th Hussars and a troop of 2nd Sind Horse, left in Kokeran on Tuesday morning on a visit to cattle field of [illegible]. The party halted at Karezisadim visited Maiwand on Wednesday, and returned to Kandahar. The Cairns erected to General Daubeny's force were found intact, but some bodies previously buried by natives in ill-made graves had been uncovered by wild animals. Measures will be taken to remedy this. Slight rain fell on Monday night but weather is now bright and cold. Prices rising slightly.

FIRST HOMEWARD departure of Mails from Bombay under the new arrangement, as recently settled by Secretary of State, will be on the 10th February. —*Press Commissioner.*

WE HAVE received the following from our Krishnaghur correspondent:

A meeting of the Committee was held at Kumarkhali on the 23th December last for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the relief of the sick poor in the Nuddea district. The meeting resolved to establish relief centres at the places mentioned below where the fever rages with virulence; it was also proposed to establish sub-committees at each centre in the distribution of food, to furnish the existing medical practitioners with a stock of medicines for distribution and administration among the sick poor, to appoint sub-committees in important villages for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. All the propositions were carried. The centres referred to were Kustea, Kumarkhali, Joteboira, Paradah, Dhurumpore, Kholisha Kundre, Alimpore, Chapra, and Usmanpore. The Students' Association of Krishnuggur also held a meeting to devise measures to afford relief to the suffering poor of the district.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, appointed on the recommendation of the Medical Expenditure Committee, consisting of Dr. R. C. Chundra, Assistant Surgeons Tamiz [illegible]n, Soorji Narain Singh and Ramkali Gupta, has submitted their report. It was forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for opinion. The Director, after consulting the Council of the Medical College, sent in his opinion to Government. According to this opinion based on the report of the Text-book Committee, [illegible] text-books on several subjects of medical study already exist, which are either sufficiently good to be authoritatively adopted, or would become so if carefully revised by their authors. The Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly ruled that in Anatomy, Babu Mohendranath Gupta's Bengali work will be temporarily adopted, but will be subject in future to much modification and improvement; as an Urdu text-book on the same subject either Mr. S. P. John's work or that of Assistant Surgeon Mahomed Hossein Khan may be used. In Materia Medica, the Bengali work of the late Doorga Das Ker may be adopted, and in Urdu either the work of Assistant Surgeon Lala Mokund Lal or that of Honorary Surgeon Rohim Khan, Khan Bahadur, may be adopted. In the Practice of Medicine Babu Gunga Prosad Mookerjees' Bengali edition may be adopted, which may be superseded at the option of Government by a good translation of Robert's hand-book of medicine. In the absence of any existing Urdu work on the subject translations of Robert's Hand-book will be invited. In Surgery a choice will be made between Babu Kasi Chunder Dutt's Principles and Practice of Surgery and Assistant Surgeon Zohuruddin Ahmed's work when it is ready. In Urdu the *Vademecum* of Assistant Surgeon Brojolal Ghose, Rai Bahadur may be adopted, but the author is advised to revise his work. In Midwifery no text-book either in Bengali or Urdu being in existence, translations of Dr. Playfair's work on the subject will be invited. In Medical Jurisprudence Assistant Surgeon Kanny Lal Dey Rai Bahadur's manual is considered sufficient, and an Urdu translation of the same is recommended.

WE HAVE received the following letter from a correspondent at Krishnaghur:

In your issue of the 20th ultimo you have published a letter from your Krishnaghur Correspondent in which he falls foul of the promoters of the Agricultural Exhibition. One would suppose that your correspondent was the last person in the world who would have anything to do with the exhibition, coming as it does at a time when people should either go into mourning or organise medical relief for suffering humanity. But, unfortunately for the consistency of human nature, at the meeting that was held on the 9th instant to consider the subject of the exhibition, your correspondent, if I mistake not, was the first person to second a resolution to hold the intended exhibition, and he has subsequently actually consented to act as a member of some of the sub-committees, and is still a member of the managing committee. So much for your correspondent. Now as to the facts. At the head of the promoters of the exhibition are the Magistrate the District Superintendent and the Civil Surgeon, gentlemen who have opportunities of knowing the condition of the District better than any writer of sensational articles in newspapers. As residents we know that many deaths did really occur in October and November but from December the death rate has decreased in all the villages and the Civil Surgeon is of opinion that by the end of this month the death-rate will came down to the normal standard. It should also be noted that at the first meeting held to organise medical relief, the Civil Surgeon, who was asked to preside, distinctly gave out, as his opinion, that no relief was required for the town of Krishnaghur These facts will show how far the gloomy picture drawn by your correspondent can be relied upon. It is a pity, however, that you have accepted his *exparte* statements and have expressed your disapproval of the intended exhibition rather in strong language. But how an exhibition can really interfere or be inconsistent with medical relief to the sick poor surpasses our comprehension It is the poor who will be mainly benefited by the exhibition, and as the agriculturists were stimulated by the rewards given to them last year to produce better articles during the present year for which promises of rewards were given, it would be an act of bad faith if they were to be told after all that the exhibition was not to take place. Besides, the exhibition is to be held in February which is the healthiest month in the year, at least in this district, and unless you are prepared to say that whenever there has been a high death-rate in any month of the year, that the people should go into mourning for a whole year afterwards, your remarks about the exhibition being "a cruel mockery" seems not to be well founded.

As for the statement of your correspondent that the authorities had been supremely indifferent about the prevalence of fever, it is to say the least of it, entirely unfounded. Long before the movement for organizing relief originated a grant was made from the Wards Estate for providing medical relief to the poor and this was supplemented by a grant from the municipality. Native doctors were sent to the interior at the requisition of the Civil Surgeon and Commissioner, and the first named gentleman has been distributing medicine at less than cost-price to every one suffering from fever.

For the sake of fair play we have given the above letter *in extenso*. But we must candidly confess that the writer has not at all proved that a time of general suffering from disease is suited for a *tamasha* like the Agricultural Exibition. We call it a *tamasah* because there is more amusement than improvement. We have no faith in annual agricultural exhibitions, the interval is too short for improvement. The money that will be spent upon prizes, natches, fireworks etcetra, might fitly have been spent upon the relief of suffering from disease.

BUDDHISM, it is said, is undergoing reform in China. The new sect calls itself Shinsin, and preaches the following doctrines: 1st. Worship is rendered to one Buddha, to the exclusion of all others. 2. This one Buddha bears the title of Amita, the 'boundless,' or Infinite. 3. The worshipper renounces all personal merit, and puts faith in nothing but the mercy of Amita. 4. The soul is brought into a state of salvation by the act of faith. 5. Though salvation is thenceforward assured, the believer does not abandon the conflict with sin; but growth in holiness is the result, not the cause of salvation.

A NEWLY-INVENTED smoke, gas, steam, and spark consumer, which may be applied to all locomotives, was recently tested on the Old Colony Railroad of Massachusetts, and it not only met all that was claimed for it, but showed that it would save $1,200 a year in fuel for each locomotive, besides preventing them from setting forests on fire.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY.

A CONTEMPORARY has the following: "The world has seven bibles: The Koran of the Mahammadans; the Eddis of the Scandinavians; the Trei Pitikes of the Buddhists; the Five Kings of the Chinese; the Three Vedas of the Hindoos; the Zendavesta; and the Holy Bible. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

THE bridging of the river Ganges at Benares, says Mr. Danvers, "will be the most formidable work of the kind yet undertaken in India." The river there is 3,000 feet broad; there is a sandy bed of practically unlimited depth, with no clay or kunker reefs to resist the scour. The bridge will be of seven spans with 416 feet between the centres of the piers, which will be of brickwork resting on elliptical bases 65 feet long by 28 feet broad. The foundations will be encased where necessary in an iron shell, and the piers will be pierced with three working chambers. The head-way between the highest flood level and the underside of the girders will be 25 feet. The line will go between the girders on a flooring suitable to the requirements both of the Oudh and Rohilkund Company, and of the Grand Trunk Road-way also; and there will be footpaths outside the girders. The total

cost of the bridge and its approaches is reckoned at £425,000.

THE SALT TAX in Russia has been abolished. It is stated that the loss caused to the revenue will be covered principally by an increase in the duty on foreign manufactured goods and in the tax on patents. An income tax is also contemplated. We can ill afford to lose the salt tax in India. It is the easiest collected and least complained of.

THE TIMES of the 4th December says that the High Sheriff of Bucks has called a meeting of the magistrates and gentry of the country with a view to giving a public welcome to the Duke of Buckingham on his return from India. His Grace well deserves this compliment.

SIR GEORGE COUPER in his address on the occasion of the distribution of prizes to the pupils of the High Schools, dwelt upon the character of the education given to the Anglo-Indian and Eurasian community. We are straining our resources, he said, to place within the reach of this community a form of education which is worse than useless, insomuch that it not only unfits the youth of both sexes for the exercise of their proper duties in life, but raises ambitious hopes of preferment, the certain disappointment of which may embitter and alienate many a life that might otherwise have been useful and happy. By all means let us have what is technically known as a liberal system of education, but we should not, in our strivings after perfectibility, forget what is useful and necessary in our pursuit of what is merely graceful and contingent.

THE FOLLOWING is an extract from the Administration Report of the North-West Provinces and Oudh, 1879 :—"The malarial fever, which during the autumn and winter months, prevailed with more or less intensity in nearly every district, very seriously affected the progress of public instruction. Middle and lower schools suffered most severely, and scarcely a school or a college altogether escaped the infliction. Many teachers and many thousands of pupils died. Many schools were deserted and closed. Some were kept open under difficulties, with a reduced number of teachers and mere skeletons of classes. In every school, from death and illness, the numbers on the roll and the daily attendance diminished. Study was almost universally interrupted. Many of the candidates for the various examinations were too much enfeebled to present themselves, and many of those who appeared were unable to do themselves justice." Is there no remedy for this fell fever ?

THURSDAY, 6TH JANUARY.

WE ARE requested by the manager of the Boree Library to state that Raja Showrendra Mohun Tagore M. S. C. I. E. has kindly consented to be Patron of the Library.

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us the following :

The early history of Garhwal is unknown. Its area is 4180 square miles. Population 150,000 souls. The chiefs claim their descent from the solar race, and are of Khettrya caste. For many generations the chief had absolute sway over the whole of Garhwal on both sides of the Alkananda river. In 1804 the Gurkhas expelled Pradumna Sah the then ruling chief. His son Rajah Suderson Sah who fled to the plains and was helped by the English to restore his territory which lay to the west of the river Alkananda. He rendered distinguished service during the mutiny of 1857. He died and was succeeded by Rajah Bhowani Sah. His son Protap Sah is the present chief, Since the accession of His Highness the Rajah several reforms have been made under the able management of the Honorable Major General Sir Henry Ramsay C. B. K. C. S. I. Commissioner of Kumayoon and Garhwal. Tehri the capital of Garhwal is a valley situated on the confluence of Bhagirutty and Velung rivers. It extends more than half a mile in length and breadth. Population 15,000 souls. Its climate is hottest in summer and coldest in winter. This valley does not yield any kind of crops. People subsist principally on the exports from Debra, Mussooree and Tibet. Custom and manners of the people are quite equal to that of Bengal. They observe the same ceremony as the others. Every one has got more than one wife, one is legitimate and the other is called Khas, who does all the household work. English education is still in infancy. The present chief with the object of distributing English medicine has opened a dispensary under the able management of Babu Jogendranath Seal. His Highness was present at the Imperial Assemblage, held at Delhi on the 1st January 1877 and received a personal salute of 11 guns as a mark of distinction. The Rajah is aged about 32 years.

A CORRESPONDENT states that certain villages in the Baraset sub-division of the 24-Pergunnahs are so infested with tigers or wolves that the inhabitants are afraid to stir out of doors after candle-light. What are the municipal authorities about ?

IN OUR notice of the Xmas dinner given to the inmates of the Alms House in our last we omitted to mention that the partakers of the treat included all the inmates of both the Alms House and the Leper Asylum and did not consist of Christians alone.

WE ARE glad to learn from our correspondent at Taki in the Bussirhat sub-division of 24-Pergunnas that the English school of that place will become a Government School. This school is as old as the late Hindoo College of Calcutta and was founded by the late Babu Kalinath Munshi of Taki In his time the school had the benefit of the services of the late Mr. Clift, author of a Manual of Political Economy, two Geographical Primers and also of Mr. Baley. It lingered for some time and was barely kept up until very lately when it has revived under the exertions and contributions of Babu Raj Mohun Chowdhary, another zemindar who has, we hear, deposited Rs. 7,500 as his contribution towards the general expenses of the school, and has offered to place a property at the disposal of Government, which will yield Rs. 300 per annum and also to contribute to the building fund of the school.

WE HAVE received the first number of a weekly native paper published at Puna every Sunday called the *Mahratta*. It is written in English and from the declaration of its aims and objects in the opening article we are glad to observe that it will be a conciliatory paper, and will be an organ "which would try its best to effectively represent the Deccanees and bring about a right understanding between the subjects and their rulers on this side of the country." We wish our new contemporary every success.

FRIDAY, 7TH JANUARY.

OUR RANCHI CORRESPONDENT writes : "Tea planting has proved eminently successful in Chutia Nagpore ; and it is a fact worthy of record that the first efforts of a native gentleman (I allude to our worthy citizen, Babu Khettra Chandra Ghose) in this direction, have been crowned with deserving success. The uplands of Chutia Nagpore seem to be favorable to the growth of tea. Coffee, too, is successfully grown here and the gentleman referred to owns the largest coffee garden in Ranchi.

THE PIONEER states that the Chief Justice of the Bengal High Court has ruled that henceforth those Civilian Judges who are willing to undertake the duties, shall be permitted to preside at the Sessions. If this means the Calcutta Criminal Sessions, we hope no Civilian Judge will try his hand, for he is sure to burn it. Sir George Campbell, whilst a Judge of the High Court, was moved by this ambition, and Sir Barnes Peacock lent him a rope. But he did not preside at the Calcutta Sessions for two days successively, when he begged to be relieved.

A NATIVE gentleman, who has just returned from Allahabad, informs us that a census cess of three ana. was levied there for every house. We can hardly believe this. Will our Allahabad contemporaries enlighten us on this subject ?

YESTERDAY'S INDIAN HERALD gives the following news about the health of the Viceroy : "His Excellency the Viceroy continues to make satisfactory progress. Yesterday he was able to take an airing in the Alfred Park and again to-day he goes out for a drive."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has informed the gentlemen in the Madras Educational Department who memorialised him regarding the injury to their prospects that has been inflicted by the appointment of Mr. Grigg, C.S., to be Director of Public Instruction, instead of some officer in their own Department, that he is not prepared to interfere with the action of the Madras Government in the matter. This is not fair. The officers of the Education Department should appeal to Parliament. Their present grievance may not be remedied, but it may prevent future jobbery of the kind complained of.

THE INDU PROKASH says that the chief event of the last week in Bombay was the opening of the Western Rajputana Railway by H. E. Sir James Fergusson. The Railway opens the through communication between Bombay and Rajputana, and the Punjab, by the shortest route, and will no doubt be highly useful in bringing the products of Rajputana and Northern India within easy reach of the Bombay markets.

WE ARE glad to observe that Rao Bahadur Mahadev Govind Ranade, M. A. L. L B. has been appointed to act as Presidency Magistrate of Bombay for two months in the room of Mr. Dossabhoy Framji. What about his rumoured appointment to a Joint-Judgship ? Mr. Ranade is an ornament of the Bombay Judicial Service.

SATURDAY, 8TH JANUARY.

OF ALL the Presidencies Bombay alone observed the Proclamation Day on New Year's Day.

WE LEARN from a Bankipore correspondent that the Behar Club of Patna having ceased to exist, some of the members thereof have made over their respective shares of the defunct club with furniture to the Bankipore Dramatic Club.

WE HAVE had lying before us for some time past a letter from a correspondent at Ishapore, a suburban town of Barrackpore, complaining of the election of Municipal Commissioners of the suburban town. The writer says, that 99 per cent. of the electors knew nothing of the elections, which were effected with the votes of a few of the rate-payers, who are friends of the candidates elected. We donot know how far this statement is correct. Perhaps the Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs may consider it worth his while to enquire into the matter.

WE HAVE received from the Press Commissioner the following statement of the opium revenue for the last ten months :

| PRESIDENCY. | Estimate. | Actual. | Better than Estimate. | Worse than Estimate. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Bengal ... | 5,05,25,000 | 6,37,05,208 | 13180208 | |
| Bombay ... | 2 36,33,000 | 1,69,90,100 | | 60,42,900 |
| Total Rs.... | 7,41,58,000 | 8,06,95,308 | 6537308 | |

Ten sales of Bengal Opium and nine month's Pass duty on Opium exported from Bombay.

THE STATESMAN is misinformed that the night-soil fees of Calcutta have been reduced one third for the higher classes and one-fourth for the lower classes. The fact is that the remission is one-third for the lowest class, and one-fourth for all the classes, above and all round.

WE DID ourselves the pleasure of visiting on Thursday last the Northbrook House to see the wax figures. The figures are life-size and well made. We hear that the whole lot has been purchased by Maharaja Runodip Sing of Nepal. We acknowledge with thanks the courtesy of Mr. Baker.

THERE WERE 293 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending the 1st January, of which 19 were from cholera, 107 from fevers, 45 from bowel-complaints, 1 from suicide, 25 from asthma and pthisis, 17 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Nine children were still-born, 43 children died between the ages of 15 days and under and above 15 days and under 1 year. Fifty-three persons died at the age of 60 and upwards. Amongst non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 12.

THE FANCY FAIR held in Madras it would appear was a great success. It was got up on a very grand scale, the Park being decorated with triumphal arches, banners, illuminations, &c., while the programme of amusements and entertainments was as exhaustive as it could well be. Among other things the Noah's Ark Race was the most amusing. The animals which started were two elephants, two horses, two mules, two ponies, two bullocks, two buffaloes, two goats, &c. The Fancy Fair of Calcutta held at the Zoo was also financially a success. The tickets sold at the gate realized about Rs. 8000. The Electric Railway attracted the greatest interest owing to its novelty.

THE CLERKS of Government offices at Simla, we observe, were allowed the usual travelling allowances for their return journey to Calcutta. We believe this special consideration was shewn chiefly at the instance of the Viceroy.

WE ARE requested to state that the annual meeting of the Calcutta Medical Society will be held at the Medical College Theatre on Wednesday next at 8-30 P. M. Dr. Cayley will deliver an address. All medical men whether members or not are invited to attend.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. Report on Vaccination in Bengal for 1879 80. 2. Trade and Navigation Accounts of of British India for November 1880 and the eight months from 1st April to 30th November 1880. 3. The Statesman (London) for December 1880. 4. The Orient an Anglo-Indian Monthly Magazine of Literature, Science and Art conducted by R. Bates, Bombay. No. 1 for January 1881. 5. Noliny or the Bee, a Bengali Monthly for Pouse 1287 B. E. 6. Christia Mohila—or the Christian Lady—a Bengali Monthly edited by Sreemutty Kaminy Seal, Vol. 1, No. I. 7. Atkins Railway Service Pocket-Book for 1881, second edition. 8. Hinduism and the Hindu People, being the substance of *extempore* addresses delivered by Ram Chunder Bose Delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church from Northern India, Boston.

MAHARANI SURNOMOYEE has again shewn her spirit of universal charity and benevolence by making a donation of Rs. 1,000 to the Armenian Famine Fund.

WE HAVE received the following communique from the Press Commissioner :

*Calcutta, January* 8, 1881.—A telegram received from Kandahar, dated 6th January states that authentic intelligence has been received that Bebbud Khan and Faizu Khan, who had left Kandahar with some twenty followers for Taiwara, were attacked near Naozad by certain Alizais, and after a fight in which several lives were lost on either side, were taken prisoners. A report is current that they have been sent prisoners to Farrah, but this is not confirmed. Another has it that they were rescued by friendly Ishakzais with whom they now are. Faizu Khan was severely wounded.

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The rumour that Taj Muhammad Khan, Seistani, was besieged in Killa Bist by the Nurzais, is untrue. It appears that he had a fight with the Nurzais at Hazarajat, in which they lost four men, and he then passed on westwards. It is stated that 150 Nurzai sowars from Farrah, in the employ of Hashim Khan, have occupied Dosang. A traviller from Ghazni brings a report that the Amir has put Muhammad Jan. Wardak, to death. In Kandahar all is quiet The monthly revenue of the city since the siege has been as follows: September Rs. 15,052; October, Rs. 43,668; November, Rs. 55,132; December, Rs. 61,031. The prospects of the crops are very good, and prices have fallen slightly.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held a public meeting this morning to protest against the new orders of the Secretary of State on the subject of the English mail days.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

*London December* 31.—In the opening speech of the Attorney-General on the trial of the Land Leaguers, he based the charges chiefly on the seditious speeches which have been made. The speech has taken four days in delivery.

1st *January*.—The latest advices from Ireland state that, in consequence of the authorities having prohibited the holdings of land meetings on Sunday (to-morrow), the meetings, which have been called throughout the country, will take place to-day. Flying columns are traversing the country, in order to prevent night drilling of the land leaguers.

2nd.—The latest advices from the Cape state that the Boers have abandoned Utrecht. The garrisons of Anderson and Wakkerstroom are strongly entrenched, and well supplied. The *Times*, in a leading article, announces that the Land Bill, now under the codsideration of the Cabinet, will be supplementary to, and a remedy of the defects of, the Land Act of 1870. No new principles will be contained in it. A Royal ordinance has been published, prolonging the term of granting Brevet promotions by succession on occasions of a vacancy of general officers in the Indian Army, until October next.

2nd.—The latest advices from South Africa state that a force of Colonials has fought an action with the Tambookties, who were defeated with the loss of eighty killed and several prisoners. The Colonials also captured many cattle and sheep. The loss on the Colonial side was only three men.

3rd.—The *Times* in a leading article to-day announces a coercion bill for Ireland, which the Government intends introducing. The bill provides for the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act and trial by Jury, and restricts the sale and possession of arms. The latest advices from Natal state that the Boers of the Orange Free State threaten to join the rebellion now raging among the Boers in the Transvaal. Communication with the Transvaal is now totally interrupted.

3rd.—Advices from the Cape state that the column of Colonial troops under colonel Carrington, which went out from Mafetang with the object of patrolling the country of the Basutos, has returned and will start again immediately, after receiving fresh convoys, on another patrolling expedition. News from the Transkei states that the Timbu chief and a large number of his tribe have surrendered to the Colonials.

4th.—Owing to rumours having reached the Government of intended raids by the Fenians on certain volunteer armouries in England, precautionary measures have been ordered to be taken to guard them against attacks. It is rumoured that a torpedo has been found under the bow of Her Majesty's ship *Lord Warden* lying in the Firth of Forth.

5th.—In a speech by Mr. Fawcett at Manchester, he advocated the carrying out of Public Works in India solely from the surplus created by an economic policy and the reduction of military expenditure. The prosperity of England and India would be greatly increased if Public Works could be carried out more by private than Government agency.

6th.—The latest advices from Ireland state that serious disturbances have occurred at West-brook near Claremovies (? Claremorris) owing to a riotous mob endeavouring to prevent the service of certain ejectment notices. The constabulary who were guarding the process servers, were obliged to charge the mob with fixed bayonets, wounding several severely. Mr. Parnell arrived in London yesterday. Six prominent land leaguers have been arrested at Tralee in county Kerry.

7th.—The House of Lord last night voted the address in reply to the Royal Speech after a short debate, in which Lord Beaconsfield said that the Government by changing the policy towards Ireland, had endangered the peace in that country. He blamed the Government because they had not earlier adopted the policy of coercion, and advised them not to weaken the executive. Lord Granville, in reply, denied his Lordship's assertion, and said that the present Government was not alone responsible for the state of Ireland, and was determined to enforce respect for law. In the debate in the House of Commons on the address in reply to the Royal Speech, Sir Stafford Northcote attacked the policy of the Government in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone, in defence said that the condition of Ireland was shameful, but that earlier action on the part of Government was not justified, and that repression alone would not redress Irish grievances. The debate was then adjourned until to-day. Lord Lytton will, on Monday next, call the attention of the Lords to his policy in connexion with the Afghan war during his viceroyalty.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1881.

## THE REPORT OF THE RENT-LAW COMMISSION.

### XXIII.

THE primary motive of the Rent-law agitation was simplification of the procedure for the trial of rent-suits. It is thus set forth in the letter of the Government of Bengal to the Government of India dated the 3rd April 1879, recommending the appointment of the Rent Commission: "The Lieutenant-Governor, it will be remembered, in view of the loud and constant complaints put forward by the zemindars as to the difficulty under the present law of collecting even undisputed rents, was anxious to provide them at an early date with a reasonably summary procedure to enable them to overcome the passive resistance of their ryots, provided that the ryots' tenure was at the same time so protected and strengthened as to obviate any fear of their being made to suffer unduly in the process. It is found, however, almost impossible to frame a procedure which shall be perfectly fair to both parties, and yet afford such special facilities to the zemindar as he seeks to secure." The Government was under a pledge to pass a law for the speedy recovery of rent. When the Road Cess Bill was passed, the duty of collecting the cess was laid upon the zemindars; these protested against this fresh delegation because they said they could not collect their own rents speedily enough. Sir George Campbell, if we recollect aright, promised to help them in this matter by simplifying the law for the recovery of rent. But it was under his indirect encouragement the great difficulty arose in the Eastern districts in the collection of rent. He was succeeded by Sir Richard Temple, who after the Famine of 1873-74, applied himself energetically to the question of the Rent-law. He tried to solve it, but did not succeed. He simply passed the Agrarian Outrages Bill, which was an exceptional measure, and for the practical enforcement of which no necessity has happily arisen. In the meantime there was a change in the *personnel* of Government. Sir Richard Temple was succeeded by Sir Ashley Eden. It devolved upon Sir Ashley to pass the Public Works Cess Act. The duty of collecting the cess was again cast upon the zemindars, and the injustice of it was again protested against. The Lieutenant-Governor again promised to give them the necessary relief by amending the Rent Recovery Law. Three Bills were successively prepared for this purpose, but none of them seemed to satisfy the needs of the case. Then was formed the Rent Commission; as we have shewn in previous articles the Commission have recommended radical and revolutionary alterations in the substantive law, but strange to say they have been almost immobile with regard to the procedure for the trial of rent-suits. They say: "Chapter XVII contains certain special rules of procedure applicable to suits between landlords and their tenants or agents. It is declared (section 147) that, save where the Bill otherwise provides, *The Code of Civil Procedure* shall apply to all suits brought for causes of action arising between landlords and their tenants or agents; and (section 148) that the cause of action in all such suits shall be deemed to have arisen within the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Civil Court, which would have jurisdiction to entertain a suit for the recovery of the land in respect of which the relation of landlord and tenant or the agency exists between the parties. This latter provision proceeds upon the lines of the present law. We have retained the existing provisions as to *Sarbarakars* and *Tehsildars* suing and being sued, and have extended them to managers under the Court of Wards; but we have provided (section 149) that all such suits shall be conducted or defended in the name of the Secretary of State for India in Council, or in the names of the private persons to whom the estates belong. We have also retained the provision of the existing law as to *Naibs* and *Gomashtahs*, if specially empowered thereto, acting as the authorized agents of their employers, although such employers are resident within the local limits of the Court's jurisdiction. We think that the facility thus afforded to landlords is a reasonable one, which should not be taken away. At the same time we have thought it equally reasonable to provide in the interest of the ryots, that the service of any notice under the Act upon any such Naib or Gomashtahs, or the tender to him of any money or fee, shall be as valid a service or tender, as if the service had been made upon, or the amount or fee tendered to, his employer (section 150)." So the ordinary procedure is not materially altered. It is true that this procedure is abbreviated in certain cases. It will apply to such cases unless the District Judge otherwise directs. The following suits will come under this procedure: (1) suits for the recovery of arrears of rent; (2) suits for ejectment; (3) suits to recover possession of land; (4) suits for damages on account of the illegal exaction of rent or cesses, or on account of the refusal of receipts; (5) suits to compel the registration of successions to, or transfers of, tenures, undertenures or occupancy holdings. The points of difference beteen the Code of Civil Procedure and the abbreviated procedure are thus stated by the Rent Commission:

*First*.—The following portions of *The Code of Civil Procedure* do not extend to Rent Suits at all, viz. the sections relating to Discovery, Inspection, Interrogatories, and Affidavits; sections 380-382 as to Security for costs; sections 401,415 as to suits by Paupers; sections 430-434 as to suits by Aliens and by and against Foreign and Native Rulers; sections 470-476 as to Interpleader; sections 503-505 as to Receivers; sections 506-526 as to arbitration; sections 527-531 as to proceedings on the Agreement of parties; sections 532-538 as to Negotiable Instruments; and section 529 as to Public Charities.

*Secondly*.—The summons is to be in all cases for the final disposal of the suit, which is ordinarily to be disposed of at the first hearing—(section 173). We have laid down (section 188) precise rules as to the cases in which an adjournment may be allowed. To deny an adjournment would be in some cases tantamount to a denial of justice, but such cases are exceptional; and if the Subordinate Courts will do their duty and District Judges see that they do it, we are satisfied that over 90 per cent. of Rent Suits can be properly disposed of at the first hearing.

*Thirdly*.—No written pleadings are required, save that the defendant may, if he desires, file a written statement of his defence—(section 184).

*Fourthly*.—We have provided (section 190) that the Court shall upon the day of hearing ascertain from each party whether he admits or denies the allegations of fact and the documents of the opposite party, and shall record such admissions or denials. We believe that this course will in very many cases considerably reduce the quantity of evidence that has to be taken, and in some cases do away with the necessity of taking evidence at all. It is too much the habit with Subordinate Judicial Officers to leave the case in the hands of the parties in its earlier stages, rousing their own attention fully only when they come to write their judgment. Facts and documents, which would be readily admitted at the first appearance betore the Court, thus come to be strenuously denied, when the parties understand their bearing, are excited by the contest, advised by unscrupulous mukhtars and eager for victory regardless of the means by which it is obtained. The proceedings are thus prolonged and the time of the Court wasted in taking evidence, which ought to have been unnecessary.

*Fifthly*.—We have provided (section 192) for making a memorandum of the evidence, sufficient to give the gist and substance of what is said, but requiring less time to record than if the whole of what each witness says were taken down at full length, as must be done under the provisions of *The Code of Civil Procedure* in all appealable cases. Any particular question and answer may, however, be taken down by the Judge, if he thinks fit—(section 193).

*Sixthly*.—We have enacted (section 169) that the Courts shall not add as a party a person setting up a title adverse to the plaintiff or defendant in respect of the subject-matter of the suit; but any question of title, disputed between any such person and a party to the suit, may be decided in such suit as between the parties thereto, if the decision of such question is necessary to the proper determination of the suit. There is no greater source of delay in the decision of rent suits than the raising of complicated questions of title and making the decision of the Court thereupon final and conclusive. Thus in a suit brought to recover a few rupees of rent, the title to property worth a thousand rupees may be litigated, to the great detriment of the stamp revenue. It sometimes indeed happens that the decision of such a question is necessary in order to the decision of the Rent Suits. Where this is the case, it may be tried and decided, but the decision will not be a bar to the formal trial of the same question under the provisions of *The Code of Civil Procedure*—(section 223.)

*Seventhly*.—We propose to take away appeals in suits brought for arrears of rent, in which the amount

claimed does not exceed *ten* rupees and in which no question of right to enhance or vary the rent of a tenant has been determined.

It will be seen from the above that the abbreviation of the procedure is not of material consequence. The bulk of the procedure is the same as now. Law's delay will not be avoided when there are so many loopholes left for legal technicalities. In fact the so-called abbreviation is a mere blind. The Commission, however remark: "If this procedure appears to any persons less summary than they could wish, and if on this account objections are advanced against it, we can only in reply state our earnest conviction of the extreme danger of summary methods of justice. In order that justice may be done, truth must be elucidated; and the elucidation of truth especially in this country, and for reasons which we need not here dwell upon in detail, requires time and patience. Any attempt to abridge judicial inquiry by arbitrary and abnormal presumptions in favour of either party, which by precluding the production of evidence may enable Judges to arrive at rapid conclusions, is to our minds retrogressive and unsafe." When the Rent Commission were fired by such notions as to the summary procedure, their abbreviated procedure could not but be a mere mockery. We may, however, remark that the new Bill may as well be thrown into the bottom of the Hooghly, if the procedure be not simplified. We will consider the details hereafter.

## INCIDENCE OF TAXATION IN INDIA.

DR. W. W. HUNTER recently told his hearers at Edinburgh that during the past ten years ending 1880, the Imperial taxation of British India averaged less than 34 millions. We see that the question relating to the incidence of taxation in India has been discussed in the second part of the Report of the Famine Commission, which treats of measures of protection and prevention. The Commissioners proceed farther than even Dr. Hunter, and write:—"The gross revenue received by the Government of India in the year 1878-79 amounted to £65,207,694, or in round numbers 65 millions. Of this sum, however, 24 millions may be regarded as in no proper sense raised by taxation; one large part of it, 9 millions, was contributed by the sale of opium, another considerable portion 7 millions, was earned by productive works, and most of the rest consists of the gross receipts in reduction of the cost of departments which on the whole bring a charge against the Government; of the 41 millions which remain when these deductions have been made, 22 millions were furnished by land revenue, and only the remaining 19 millions can be treated as taxation properly so-called." Thus in the opinion of the majority of the Famine Commission, the income of the Indian Government from the sale of opium and from the land cannot be regarded as revenues derived from taxation. On the subject of the land revenue the Commission make the following observations:—"The land revenue is a source of income which in India must be distinguished from taxation properly so called as, by immemorial and unquestioned prescription, the Government is entitled to receive from the occupier of the land whatever portion it requires of the surplus profit left after defraying the expenses of cultivation. This right was and is very often exerised by the Native Governments to the extent of taking from the occupier the whole of this surplus. But the Government under British rule, instead of sweeping off the whole margin of profit, in no case takes more than a fixed share, which is estimated at from 3 per cent. to 7 per cent. of the gross outturn, and 50 per cent. either of the net produce or of the rent. In the case of the permanently settled districts, the amount to be paid by the landholders was fixed by Government in perpetuity; and through the increase in the area under cultivation, and in the letting-value of land, that amount which was then from 90 to 100 per cent. of the estimated rent-roll, has fallen to about one-third or one-fourth of the rental actually received. The land revenue may, therefore, with more propriety be regarded as a rent paid by a tenant, often a highly favoured tenant, to the paramount owner, than as a tax paid by the owner to the State." As regards the opium revenue the Commission apparently think it superfluous to adduce any arguments in support of their theory. They simply assume that the opium revenue of India cannot be called a tax.

It is needless to point out that the views of the Famine Commission on the character of the land revenue and the opium revenue of India do not possess even the merit of originality. They have been borrowed from the late Mr. James Wilson. The first Finance Minister of India in his famous speech delivered on the occasion of the introduction of the Income Tax Bill into the Legislative Council, expressed his opinion that the opium revenue of India could "in no sense be called a tax," and that the land revenue could "only be regarded as rent." That these views of the great economical theorist should be adopted by the admirers and disciples of Sir John Strachey is scarcely surprising. We are, however, glad to see that one of the members of the Commission, Mr. H. E. Sullivan, of the Madras Civil Service, has dissented from the opinions expressed by his colleagues. He clearly shows that the theory propounded by Mr. James Wilson cannot be upheld. In reference to the revenue derived by the Government of India from the sale of opium, Mr. Sullivan says:—"There is no question as to opium, a valuable product of the soil, which in spite of a very heavy duty, is in great and increasing demand, and it is equally certain that were the present restrictions on its manufacture and sale removed, a considerable portion of the nine millions which now form a principal asset of the public revenue would go into the pockets of the agricultural and mercantile classes. By intercepting these profits it seems perfectly clear to me that a heavy tax is imposed by the State on this branch of agricultural and commercial industry, a tax far exceeding in amount the share of produce and profits which by prescription the ruling power is entitled to claim. When the matter was discussed at a meeting of the Commission it was alleged that the profits of the monopoly were derived from the foreign consumers, and to a large extent this is doubtless correct; but I contend that if the monopoly were abolished the growers could command their own terms with the merchants, and as the growth and manufacture of the commodity is confined to a comparatively limited tract of country, there would be keen competition amongst the latter to secure it in view of the enhanced profits to be obtained from the trade being then open. To maintain the proposition that the opium revenue of India is not in any way raised by a taxation of the people of India it must be shown that the price paid by Government to the growers is as much as they would receive if there were no State monopoly, and that the merchants' profits suffer no diminution thereby; and until this is satisfactorily demonstrated the diminution of this item must in my opinion vitiate any calculation of the incidence of taxation." But this has not yet been demonstrated, nor can it be. The simple truth is that the Government intercepts the large profits which the grower and manufacturer would have received, had the opium duty not been in existence. From every chest of opium that leaves India, the State derives a considerable income, which, if the opium duty was repealed, would find its way into the pockets of the agricultural and commercial classes. This contribution must be regarded as taxation for the simple reason that it has to be paid to the official tax-gatherer. This is the common-sense and reasonable view of the subject, say what economical theorists may.

Mr. Sullivan shows still more clearly that his colleagues are mistaken in thinkiug that the State in India has any right of ownership in the soil, and that by immemorial prescription it is entitled to recover from the occupier of the land *whatever portion it requires* of the surplus profit left after defraying the expenses of cultivation. He rightly says that if for the words italicised in the foregoing sentence the words "a certain fixed portion" were substituted, the claim of the State would be correctly represented. He proceeds:—"That foreign conquerors did by force take such portion as they required may be conceded, but it is inaccurate to say that they were entitled to do so. The claim of the State is distinctly limited by Menu, the oldest authority on the subject. He says,—'The revenue consists of a share of grain, and of all other agricultural produce * * * * Of grain, one-twelfth, one-eighth, one-sixth, according to the soil and the labour necessary to cultivate it. This may also be raised in cases of emergency, even as far as one-fourth. Now here there is not a word which can be twisted to show that the State has any right of ownership in the soil; all that it is entitled to is a certain fixed share of the produce; and on this ancient right, and on this only, our system of land revenue settlement is based, as were those which we found in existence when the country came under our rule. Coming down from Menu to our own times, let us see if the British Government has ever asserted a general right of ownership in the land. When railways were first commenced in India one of the concessions made by the State was the provision, free of charge to the companies, of the requisite land. If, as represented in the Report, the Government was the paramount owner and the agricultural community merely its tenants, all that it had to do was to exercise its rights of ownership, give its tenants notice to quit, and hand over the land to the railway companies. But so unconscious was it of having such rights, that legislation was had recourse to, and in 1850, 1857, 1860, and 1870 acts were passed to enable the Government to acquire land for public purposes, and an elaborate code of procedure was framed to regulate the mode of acquisition and the price to be paid by Government to the owners. And if further evidence be thought necessary to support my views as to the relative positions of the Government and the people of India in regard to the land, I turn to that chapter of our Report which treats of tenures, and ask attention to paragraph 3, page 111, where the position of the ryot in the Madras Presidency is described. His proprietory right in the soil is there fully recognized, and it is explained that he is absolutely free to let, mortgage, sell, devise or otherwise alienate his holding; and to this may be added that he has also full liberty to fell timber and to open mines and quarries thereon, nor is there any restriction as to his mode of farming or the description of crops he may raise. I defy any one to show that the rights of the Indian landholder, under whatever name he may be known in various parts of the country, are here overstated, and I submit that the exercise of all or any of them is inconsistent with the position of a tenant of the State, which is that assigned to him in the Report. If the foregoing be correct what vestige of ownership in the soil remains to the Government? That it is practically *nil* is shown by the fact above referred to, that legislation was necessary to enable the State to acquirely purchase the rights of the people in the land. If then the State be not the owner, the people cannot be its tenants, nor can the share of the produce of the land which they contribute towards the public necessity be designated rent. It is, therefore, a tax, and as such must be taken into account in calculating the incidence of taxation." This process of reasoning will commend itself to the common sense of the thinking portion of the community. Then, it must not be forgotten that the land revenue demand in India is not so light as the majority of the Famine Commission seek to make out. The State, in most parts of the country, takes a very large portion of the produce of the soil. This is especially the case in Madras, where the land revenue demand is notoriously the heaviest in India. Again, the statement made by the majority of the Famine Commission to the effect that in the permanently settled districts the revenue though amounting to from 90 to 100 per cent. of the estimated rent-roll has now fallen to about one-third or one-fourth of the rental actually received, is utterly misleading and is calculated to throw dust in the eyes of the British public. We have over and over again shown in these columns that the proprietors with whom the permanent settlement was concluded on such admittedly high assessments broke down under their weight; and that that the preseut zemindars do not get any thing more than a fair return on the money they have invested in land. The

total rental, which is divided among the whole body of superior landlords and middle men, does not come to more than double the amount paid to Government in the shape of land revenue and local cesses.

## THE CENTRAL PROVINCES LAND-REVENUE BILL.

Two most important Bills relating to the Central Provinces are now under the consideration of the Viceroy's Legislative Council. They were introduced into the Council at Simla by Mr. Charles Grant some six months ago. The object of one of these Bills is "to consolidate and amend the law relating to land-revenue and the powers of revenue officers;" and that of the other is "to consolidate and amend the law relating to agricultural tenancies in the Central Provinces." We propose in this article to discuss the Land-Revenue Bill, reserving the Rent Bill for notice on another occasion. The necessity for passing a Land-revenue Bill for the Central Provinces has been clearly made out by Mr. Charles Grant, the member in charge of the measure. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill explains that the Land-revenue administration of the Central Provinces as at this moment carried on rests on an insufficient basis. We read:—"Throughout a considerable portion of the country there is little or no law regarding the settlement and collection of the revenue beyond that which may be considered to be established by ancient usage. In some parts it is doubtful how far any written law applies, and elsewhere the only law is either the spirit of certain old Regulations of the Bengal Code, or half-forgotten rules which owe their binding force to the Indian Council's Act." In plain English, this means that there is no land-revenue law for the Central Provinces, and that every thing connected with the settlement and collection of the revenue has hitherto depended upon the sweet will of the executive authorities. The portion of the Central Provinces known as the Saugor and Nerbudda territories formerly belonged to the Central Provinces. The revenue officers in those territories were long ago directed to guide their proceedings by the "spirit of the Regulations;" but Mr. Bird who visited the country in 1834, reported that not one of these officers "had read a word of the Regulations, or knew any thing of their spirit." Such a state of things could only exist in a non-Regulation province. Mr. Grant remarks: "No inconvenience in practice was felt from this state of things in the earlier days of our rule, when the people scarcely realized the possibility of their having any rights as against their rulers; but of late years the diffusion of legal ideas has placed the landholders and the Government more at arm's-length; the old state of things has shown clear signs of giving way and the want of a definite system of revenue law, such as exists in all the other settled Provinces of the empire, has come to be felt." The land revenue administration of the Central Provinces could not have been carried on at all so long but for the ignorance and submissiveness of the people. The people did not know their rights and consequently had little inclination to fight about them. They looked upon their rulers as their *ma bap*, and tamely submitted to what was done by the executive authorities. But this happy state of things no longer exists. Lawyers, who, for obvious reasons, are an eye-sore to the officials in non-Regulation provinces have now penetrated into even the remotest corners of the Central Provinces; and their advent has naturally disturbed the peaceable condition of the local officers. They sigh for the return of the days when barristers and pleaders were unknown and when they could do whatever they liked. But such regrets are of little use. Now that the people have shown an inclination to fight about their rights, the happy-go-lucky style of doing things can no longer answer.

The Central Provinces Land Revenue Bill has been drawn on the lines of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Land Revenue Acts, with this difference that the Bill is confined to the subject of the land-revenue administration strictly so called, to the exclusion of certain subjects, such as Partition and Court of Wards, which it has been the practice in the other Provinces to include in Land-revenue Acts. Chapter II. of the Bill deals with Revenue-officers, their powers and procedure. The Chief Commissioner is declared to be the Chief Controlling Revenue authority in the Province. It is proposed to invest him with the power of making rules to regulate the procedure of Revenue Courts. In this respect the Central Provinces Land-revenue Bill differs materially from the similar Act for the North-Western Provinces, which contains detailed rules of procedure. We are told that as most of the Revenue-officers in the Central Provinces preside over Civil Courts and know the Code of Civil Procedure, it would be convenient to adopt that Code as a basis for the procedure of the Revenue Courts. But we notice that every thing relating to procedure has been left to the discretion of the Chief Commissioner. We do not see the necessity for passing a Land-revenue Act for the Central Provinces, if the executive is to have supreme power to regulate the procedure of the Revenue Courts. It is well that the Civil Procedure Code should be adopted as a basis for the procedure of Revenue Courts in the Central Provinces; but then the Legislatnre should definitely decide whether any provisions of the Code shall apply with or without modification to all or any classes of cases before Revenue-officers, instead of leaving the decision to the Chief Commissioner of the province. If this be not done, the Legislative Council might not as well undertake land-revenue legislation for the Central Provinces. The Bill, we see, discourages, as far as possible, the employment of legal practitioners before Revenue-officers. Section 19 runs as follows:—"The fees of no legal practitioner or recognized agent shall be allowed as costs before any Revenue-officer unless, for reasons to be recorded by him in writing, such officers consider that such fees are proper to be allowed." We have remarked above that legal practitioners are an eye-sore to the officials in the Central, as in all other non-Regulation Provinces, and that they sigh for a return of the days when barristers and pleaders were unknown. Such being the case, it requires no prophet to foresee what use the revenue-officers in the Central Provinces would make of the discretionary power proposed to be vested in them by section 19 of the Bill. That they will do every thing possible to prevent the employment of legal practitioners before them by not allowing their fees as costs, is as clear as the most elementary proposition. Parties will be slow to engage the services of legal practitioners to conduct their cases, when they know that the fees paid to those practitioners cannot be recovered as a matter of right. The authorities of the Central Provinces have devised an excellent means of revenging themselves on barristers and pleaders, whose advent has given rise to so much trouble and litigation, and has created the necessity for land-revenue legislation.

Section 34 of the Bill empowers the Chief Commissioner to invest settlement-officers with the powers of Civil Courts for the disposal of suits relating to land, such as suits for arrears of rent due on account of any rights of pasturage, forest rights, fisheries or the like, suits by lumbardars for arrears of Government revenue payable to them by the proprietors whom they represent, suits by proprietors for their share of the profits of an estate or any part thereof after payment of the Government revenue and village expenses, or for settlement of accounts, suits by mafidars or assignees of Government revenue for arrears of revenue owing to them as such mafidars or assignees, suits by superior proprietors for arrears of revenue due to them as such superior proprietors, &c. &c. Now, these suits are of a purely civil nature and ought to be tried by Civil Courts. Their transfer to settlement-officers will, in many instances, be productive of injustice. Nor will the injustice, that may be done by courts of settlement officers as courts of first instance be remedied by the provision that the ultimate appeal in such suits will lie to the Judicial Commissioner. Section 49 of the Bill, to use Mr. Grant's own language, "declares that all lands with certain definite exceptions, are liable to be assessed to land-revenue." The exceptions are (1) land purchased free of revenue under any rulers for the time being in force to regulate the sale of waste lands, (2) land in respect of which the revenue has been redeemed under any rules for the time being in force for the redemption of the tax on any land required or used for dwelling-houses, factories, gardens, plantations or other similar purposes; (3) land which has been excluded from assessment by the settlement-officers on the ground that the owner can derive no profit from it; (4) land in respect of which a claim to hold revenue-free as against the Government is established; (5) land which the Chief Commissioner may exempt from assessment. Now, it should be borne in mind that settlement-officers will enquire into claims to hold land free of revenue or at less than a full assessmet. Whenn we have said this, we have said enough to show that claims to hold land revenue-free as against Government can be established in the Central Provinces. The Government should, in our opinion, tell the people in plain terms that no claim to hold land free of revenue or at less than a full assessment shall be entertained. Sections 78 and 83 of the Bill specify the acts and decisions of a settlement officer which may be called in question in a Civil Court. The decision of a settlement officer on a claim to hold land revenue-free as against Governmernt cannot be contested in a Civil Court. Section 117 deals with the important question of the right of malguzars to resume revenue free grants made by them or their predecessors in interest. The section is as follows: "Nothing in the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, and no agreement made after the passing of this Act, shall bar the right of the malguzars of any mahal assessed to land revenue to demand revenue in respect of any land which, having been taken into account in such assessment has been held by any person without payment of revenue; but the Chief Commissioner may, in his discretion, exempt any case from the operation of this section." The Chief Commissioner, to our thinking, should have no discretionary power in matters like these. The rule of law ought to be made absolute in such cases. The only species of partition for which the Central Provinces Land-Revenue Bill provides is the separation into two separate mahals of two portions of a mahal which are held in severalty. This section lays down that any malguzars of a mahal who are not co-sharers with the other malguzars of such mahal in any lands of such mahal except such lands as are under the law relating to partition for the time being in force indivisible, may apply to the Deputy Commissioner to make the lands held by them separately from such other malguzars a separate mahal. Section 153 of the Bill provides that when waste-lands have been demarcated as the property of Government, no claim to such lands shall be entertained by any Civil Court after the expiration of three years from the date of such demarcation. We do not see any reason why Government should have a special privilege in such a matter. Justice demands that the State and the private claimant should be treated alike.

## EDUCATION IN BENGAL IN THE YEAR 1879-80.

THE mightiest achievement of the British Government in India is its educational machinery, and the work for which it will be best remembered by posterity is the diffusion of the knowledge of the literature and sciences of the West amongst the various nationalities and races of the Indian people. Bengal has been the first to avail herself of this blessing. Hitherto the educational means and appliances placed within the reach of the people of the provincewere chiefly availed of by the Bengali-speaking population but it affords us no small satisfaction to notice that at last there is a most healthy animation in the other provinces, specially inBehar. The higher-class English schools in Bengal are classified according to the number of pupils they contain. Those with 300 pupils and upwards are considered first classs schools, those with less than 300 and not less than 175, second class schools, and all others with pupils below 175 third class schools. Among the 11 first class zillah schools in Bengal

five are in Behar, namely, Patna, Gya, Chupra, Arrah and Bhaugulpore. The Patna school has 544 pupils, and the numbers in the four others range from 504 to 426. Heretofore and in some districts even to this day the pupils attending the zillah schools or schools situate at head-quarters of districts, were chiefly composed of the sons and relatives of the amlah of the courts and of pleaders and mooktears, the majority of whom were strangers to the district. Now we read that the lower classes of the zillah schools are filled to overflowing with boys who are natives of the province, and not, as heretofore, half of them Bengalis. And what has taken place in zillah schools has also occurred in the interior of districts. Vernacular schools are rapidly receiving additions of English classes owing to a growing demand for English education amongst the people. As in Bengal so in Behar, education is chiefly prized by the people for the immediate practical benefit which it confers; this accounts for the complete indifference of the people to a purely vernacular education. Both the Government and the Director of Public Instruction think, however, that the recent adoption of the Hindi character in the courts will unquestionably stimulate the desire of the respectable classes for an education, which can now be turned to a profitable account. One of the Zillah Schools in Behar, namely, Arrah occupied a place in the third class amongst the schools, which have occupied a high place at the Entrance Examination of 1879, and the success of this school has been such "as to lift it at once to a level with the great Bengal schools."

The diffusion of education in Bengal generally may be judged from the number of schools and the number of pupils, attending them. There are 48 higher class English schools under direct Government management with 13,727 pupils, 88 aided schools with pupils, whose numbers range from 8,894 to 14,091, 64 unaided schools with from 13,903 to 14,091 pupils. Altogether there are 200 high English schools with 38,618 pupils. The number of middle English schools has increased from 540 last year to 554 in the year of report with pupils from 31,490 in 1878-79 to 32,812 in 1879-80. Of these 8 are Government schools, 432 are aided and 114 unaided. We have next the middle vernacular schools and the lower vernacular schools and the schools for primary education. In the former two classes of schools the numbers of pupils receiving instruction are 54,562 and 54,296 respectively. In the schools for primary instruction the number of pupils receiving instruction was 613,452 last year. The educational authorities cannot conceal the fact that with all the efforts of the supervising officers, they have not succeeded in creating a demand for vernacular education, and they have been obliged to stimulate these schools into active life by adding to them English classes. The policy initiated by the Director and approved by Government of amalgamating a vernacular school with a high class English school will have no doubt the effect of reducing expenditure, but its adoption clearly establishes the truth that the people can be roused to take interest in vernacular instruction only under the temptation of the prospect of the future admission of the pupils to the English classes attached to the vernacular schools. The policy might with advantage be practised with respect to high English schools,

We have mentioned above that the number of pupils receiving primary education is 613,452 attending 35,258 schools. These schools include, however, indegenous patshalas, Sanskrit tols, and maktabs or Mahomedan schools teaching the Koran only. The number of pupils attending these schools is 76,145, whose education cost the Government nothing. The remainder are primary schools aided by the primary grant, and grant-in-aid schools. The policy adopted almost all over Bengal in the encouragement and multiplication of these schools is the system of paying their teachers by results, in a few districts fixed stipends are paid.

For the education of Europeans and Eurasians there are 47 schools with 4533 pupils in and outside Calcutta. Of the six Railway schools including the new Government Railway School at Kurseong, the best are said to be the two at Jamalpore and Buxar.

Another noticeable feature in the progress of education in Bengal is the yearly increasing numbers of female schools, of which in the year of report there were 657 with 14,870 pupils. In addition to the girls receiving instruction in separate girls' schools, there were 13,643 girls reading in boys' schools. There are two young native ladies in the Bethune School, who have passed the Entrance Examination and are studying for the F. A. Examination. Three girls in Moorshedabad, one from the Serajgung School, three in Mymensing, and four in Chittagong passed the Primary Scholarship Examination. In Tipperah two girls passed the lower vernacular and six the primary examination. In the districts of the Burdwan Division the girls scholarship examination was carried out by the Utterpara Hitakari Sabha, and at this examination there were 49 candidates of whom 12 passed the final examination and 30 by lower standard, 30 girls were selected for scholarships. Besides the pupils reading in regularly established schools, there were others who receive instruction at their own houses, of these there were 2119 pupils, some of whom were connected with schools under the zenana agencies of Missionary Societies. According to the report of the Inspectress of the zenana and other girls' schools, the zenana pupils have done something, though none seem to have made any steady progress. The most gratifying results of the operations of the Education Department of last year are first the increasing appreciation of English Education by our Mahomedan fellow-subjects, and second, the indication of increasing appreciation of education by the people generally as shewn by the increase of receipts from private sources. In all the colleges and schools both for general and special education the total number of Mahomedans under instruction was 159,191 against 131,998 in the year previous to the year of report. This number is small compared with the Mahomedan population of Bengal, but it is very large as compared with the school-population of previous years. All this is owing to the very deep rooted orthodoxy, which abhors every learning as profane which is not based upon the religious books.

We will conclude with noticing one fact bearing on the state of higher education in Bengal, which is that, since the introduction of the optional system, the liberty to the students to select either the literature course or the science course in the B. A. Examination, larger numbers choose the science course, and of these the proportion passed was much in excess of those in the A or literature course. This result it is said is owing to the severity of the test in the literature course. We think otherwise. The literature course is itself severe requiring vast reading, the science course has a limited range. But we are glad to learn that the number of senior scholars who select the course in literature is steadily increasing.

## AN IMPORTANT STAMP-LAW RULING.

A VERY important stamp-law ruling has been made by the High Court. It is in reference to a deed, which was construed differently by different authorities. It is a deed of arrangement under which a certain bonus was given, and an estate was conveyed, securing a maintenance, according to family custom. The District Collector was applied to for adjudication under the Stamp Act, and he recorded the following opinion:

"The deed recites that the younger brother is claiming a share of the ancestral property, and that the elder brother in order to satisfy that claim, and induce him to relinquish it and all other claims on the estate has given him 2½ lacs of Rupees—and also by this deed grants coveys to him a certain Pergunnah in accordance with family custom and to be held in accordance with such custom.

The elder brother has in a way reserved to himself the proprietary rights covenanting that his name shall remain in the Collectorate rent roll and that the Government Rent shall be paid through him. But for what exact time the younger brother will hold the land is not discussed in the deed itself, it is said that the land is granted as an appaunge "in accordance with the family custom of assigning a maintenance or Babooana grant."

To determine what the deed really is, it is necessary to see its effect—now this refunds in which the family custom is and it might be necessary under the provision of the Stamp Law as contained in Sec. 30 to require an affidavit on this subject.

However, knowing what is the custom of such families, it may be safely presumed that the effect of the deed is to retail the property on the younger brother and provide that it shall revert partly or wholly on failure of issue.

Assuming this to be the case what is the deed? It has been stamped I see as follows Rs.5 as a deed of release executed by the younger brother and Rs. 15 as a deed of trust executed by the elder brother. This interpretation of the deed I cannot accept.

It is hardly a conveyance for the definition of a conveyance is property (moveable or immoveable) transferred on sale. In my opinion it must either be taken as a gift or as a settlement and for this I hold it to be the latter, because it is a gift or disposition of property made for family reasons. There is no doubt that the elder brother has been urged by other considerations to alienate the property, but the deed does deal with family ones and may be construed accordingly.

Taking the deed as a settlement it only remains to determine the stamp, sec. 27 of the Act says all facts affecting the chargeability of an instrument with duty must be fully set forth. This has not been done. But as I am proceeding under section 30 this may be supplemented by evidence, and therefore before adjudicating on the stamp, I shall require an affidavit of the value of the Pergunnah conveyed from the Maharajah or his authorised agent.

Finally follows the determination of the mode of fixing the value of land conveyed—knowing the analogy of sec. 21 I rule that is the market value, ascertained by some standard calculation. As far as I can ascertain the market selling value is at from 15 to 20 years' purchase I therefore declare the value to be the mean or 17½ times. It will be necessary for me therefore to be informed of the net annual rental, and that multiplied by 17½ will give the value.—

The order is that the certificate will be given on such information or affidavit as described above."

The Collector subsequently wrote to the Board of Revenue to the following effect:

It seems to me rather a difficult question to settle since writing the memo it has occurred to me that the deed might be construed as a conveyance. For property to be transferred by sale it is not necessary that the consideration should be money but any thing valuable. In this case the property has been clearly transferred on consideration of the release surely a very valuable consideration. Perhaps under this circumstance all the conditions attending the transfer might be considered as not affecting its legal nature.

The Board made a reference to the High Court on the following terms:

The point on which the decision of the High Court is requested is as to the stamp duty to be levied on the instrument executed by A and his brother B. The Collector of—— to whom the instrument was presented for adjudication under sec: 30 of act I of 1879 is of opinion that it should be stamped as a conveyance. He says that for property to be transferred by sale, it is not necessary that the consideration should be money, but any thing valuable. In this case the property has been clearly transferred on consideration of the release. The essence of the document is that the Maharaja conveys the Pergunnah and gives 2½ lacs on condition that the obligee who has claims on the property will relinquish them. Immediately the release is given the transfer is binding and if the money had not been paid it would be payable; and the deed as regards the money would be a bond, and as regards the land a conveyance." The Board do not concur in the opinion expressed by the Collector, and the document appears to them to be in the nature of a settlement according to the definition given in clause 19, sec. 3 of the Act. The Advocate General to whom the matter was referred to is however of opinion that it is an instrument of partition also a release.

The High Court, Justices Pontifex and Morris presiding, has passed the following order:

We think that the instrument in question is already sufficiently stamped. It is neither a conveyance nor a settlement nor an instrument of partition within the meaning of Act I of 1879.

It is in its nature a deed of arrangement by which a sum of money was paid absolutely, and a maintenance grant made by A to his younger brother by way of discharge and satisfaction of all claims, by way of maintenance or otherwise to which the latter was entitled as the son of the late——.

The instrument would no doubt have been a conveyance under the Stamp Act of 1869 because it is a

deed by which property is conveyed *inter vivos* but the difinition of a conveyance under of Act 1879 (See Sec. 3-(9) excludes all transfers or conveyances which are not made by way of sale; and this transfer we consider was clearly not made by way of sale.

The phases of opinion in this case are amusing and edifying. Firstly, the Collector considers the deed to be a conveyance, secondly, the Board considers it a settlement, thirdly, the Advocate-General considers it a partition and lastly, the High Court considers it a deed of arrangement, and declares the duty of Rs. 5 and Rs. 15 already paid to be sufficient. When so many high authorities are at variance on such a single question of the stamp-law, how are simple men, unused to the mysteries and intricacies of law, to act in matters of this nature? If the parties in this case had not been rich and influential, they would we fear have been obliged to accept the ruling of the Collector, and made to pay an *ad valorem* duty amounting to some thousands of rupees instead of a small duty of Rs 5 and Rs. 15. We hope the Board will circulate among the Revenue officers this important ruling of the High Court for their guidance.

## LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY and Marchioness of Ripon will leave Allahabad early this morning, halt at Mokameh in the evening and resume journey early next morning (Tuesday) and arrive at Calcutta in the evening. The journey and reception will be strictly private.

IT WILL be seen from an advertizement in another column that the Garden Party at Belvedere will take place this afternoon at 4-30 P. M.

PARLIAMENT was opened on the 6th instant. We give below the telegraphic report of the Queen's speech:

"My lords and gentlemen, my relations with Foreign Powers continue to be friendly. The Powers of Europe have been engaged in communications to determine the demarcation of the Greek Frontier. Important portions of the Berlin Treaty are not yet fulfilled, and will continue to be the object of my anxious attention. The rising of the Boers in the Transvaal has imposed upon me the duty of taking military measures for the prompt vindication of my authority, and I have postponed the plan intended of securing to the settlers local autonomy. I regret the continuance of war in Basutoland, and I hope that suitable occasion for my friendly mediation may occur to restore peace to that province. With the exception of the force now at Kandahar, all my troops have been recalled from Afghanistan. The permanent occupation of Kandahar is not intended, but the unsettled condition of the country and consequent difficulty in establishing a Native Government, has delayed the withdrawal before this of my forces there. The social condition of Ireland is alarming, and the extended system of terror now reigning there is paralysing the exercise of private rights and civil duties. The ordinary powers having proved insufficient, proposal will be submitted to you for additional powers necessary to vindicate the law, protect life and property, and personal liberty. The Land Act of 1870 was beneficial, but is insufficient, and I recommend to you the development of its principles conformably with the special wants of Ireland." Bills for the county suffrage, the Government of Ireland (*sic*), and the abolition of corporal punishment are announced.

The speech is laconic. Its interest is divided between the Eastern Question, Ireland and India. India looks forward with profound interest to the course of legislation which Mr. Gladstone's Government meditates on the Irish land question.

THE FOLLOWING circular has been issued by the Government of Bengal regarding the employment of Bengalis in Behar:

FROM H. M. KISCH, ESQ., Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments.

(1) To the Chairmen of the Municipalities of Patna, Shahabad, Gya, Mozufferpore, Sarun, Chumparun, and Durbhunga.
(2) To the Chairmen of the Road Cess Committees of Patna, Shahabad, Gya, Mozufferpore, Sarun, Chumparun, and Durbhunga.
(3) To the Inspector-General of Registration.
(4) To the Inspector-General of Police.
(5) To the Inspector-General of Jails.

*Dated Calcutta, the 28th December* 1880.

APPOINTMENT.

Sir,—I am directed to invite your attention to the instructions contained in the accompanying extract (paragraph 2) from Government order No. 3022, dated the 3rd October 1871, to the address of the Commissioner of Patna, on the subject of the employment under Government in Behar of qualified natives of that Province in preference to Bengalees and I am to request that, in order to enable the Commissioner of Patna to submit a complete return to Government, you will be good enough to send to that officer, at the end of each year, a statement showing the number of vacancies, whether acting or permanent, that have occurred during the year, and whether they have been filled up by Bengalees or Beharees. When the vacancies have been filled by the appointment of Bengalees, the reasons for the preference should be stated. The first statement should be forwarded to the Commissioner by the 15th January 1882.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant,
H. M. KISCH.
*Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

No. 5646A.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 5486A, dated the 20th instant, with the intimation that similar information has been separately called for through the Board of Revenue, regarding appointments to opium offices in Behar, and that the Post Master General, Bengal, has been addressed regarding appointments in the post-office. An abstract of the returns received by the Commissioner should be submitted to Government.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. M. KISCH,
*Under Secy. to the Government of Bengal.*

*Calcutta, the 28th December* 1880.

We yield to none in our desire to do justice to the claims of the Beharis to employment in the public service, but we do not understand why an invidious distinction should be made between class and class in this matter. The fittest person should always have the preference, be he Bengali or Behari, Hindu or Mahomedan. The prejudice against the Bengali indicated in the above circular is quite unreasonable. We must confess we are the more sorry because the unkind cut has come from Sir Ashley Eden.

ACCORDING to the London *Times* England will contribute £5,000,000, towards the defrayal of the Affghan war expenses. This will be about one-fourth of the total cost of the war, and does not by any means represent a fair proportion of the liability of England in this matter. But we hail it as the "conscience money" of England, and feel deeply grateful to Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, who have in this instance redeemed their pledge.

THE RENDITION of Mysore will take place in March next. The Viceroy had invited Mr. Gordon, Chief Commissioner, Mysore, for a conference on the subject, but owing to His Excellency's illness Mr. Gordon could not visit him. He himself also fell ill. The details of the measure were, however, settled between Mr. Gordon and Mr. Lyall, the Foreign Secretary. We believe Mr. Rangacharloo will be dewan under the Native Raj. We are glad to learn that Mr. Gordon's counsels will not be withdrawn altogether. He will be appointed British Resident at Mysore, and will be thus in a position to watch the first operations of the new Raj. The Maharaja will complete his eighteenth year in March next, it was proposed to extend his minority to 21 years, but the Home Government was opposed to delay in the restoration of the Raj. This event will mark a new epoch in the history of British relations with the Native States.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND MRS. BESANT have been taking interest in India. After a lecture at Mr. Bradlaugh's "Hall of Science" Mrs. Besant moved and a Mr. Le Lubez seconded a resolution asking Mr. Gladstone to take the earliest possible steps for annulling "the Indian Press-gagging Act." Mr. Bradlaugh was authorized by the meeting to transmit the resolution to the Prime Minister, who, through one of his secretaries, sent the following reply:—

"10, Downing Street, Whitehall, 4th December, 1880. "Sir,—Mr. Gladstone has received your letter of the 29th ultimo, transmitting the resolution which was passed at a meeting recently held in the Hall of Science, Old Street, E.C., respecting the Vernacular Press Act in India; and he desires me to acquaint you that, on inquiry at the India Office, he has ascertained that, though the Secretary of State has not yet received from the Viceroy a full expression of his views on the subject, the matter is receiving his Excellency's careful consideration—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"E. W. HAMILTON.

"Charles Bradlaugh, Esq., M.P."

We do hope that Mr. Gladstone will early redeem his pledge on this subject.

WE OBSERVE that Babu Kristodas Pal has been re-appointed a member of the Bengal Legislative Council and the following gentlemen appointed members of it, Mr. Reynolds in the room of Mr. C. D. Field resigned, Mr. Allen in the room of Mr. O'Kinealy resigned, and Mr. Brookes in the room of Mr. J. B. Knight, who goes out by rotation. Mr. Reynolds retains his seat in the Viceregal Council. Mr. Brookes had served the Council in 1874-75, and took part in the passing of the present Municipal Act of Calcutta. We congratulate him on his re-appointment.

IT APPEARS that the Munsifi of Nabigunge in the district of Sylhet is proposed to be abolished. The inhabitants of Nabigunge have submitted a petition to the High Court on the subject, from which we give the following extract:

Nabigunja is the centre of the Nabigunja Munsif's circle and it is there from its foundation. It is situated on the bank of the *Barak* and it falls in the way from Sylhet to Dacca. The place possesses advantages in point of salubrity of climate and convenience of food &c. in which no place in Sylhet can rival. As regards high ground and spaciousness of the locality Nabiganja is decidedly superior to Habigunja.

Habiganja is 16 miles south of Nabiganja, and the distance of the former from the villages lying on the northern boundary of the Nabiganja munsif's circle is nearly two day's journey. At the same time Habiganja has no good communication with those places excepting during that part of the rainy season when the rivers are all full. Habigunja is low and it is under water every year during the rainy season.

Accordingly the petitioners pray for the retention of Nabigunj Munsifi.

THE FOLLOWING account of a Road Cess meeting at Hooghly will interest the reader:

There is usually so little life in the meetings of District Committees that it is a relief to hear now and then of exceptions to the rule. The proceedings which we now notice show moreover how things are managed in the Mofussil even at a place so very near to Calcutta and so advanced in every respect as Hooghly. Mr. C. E. Buckland the able and energetic Magistrate of Howrah who takes such a lively interest in the welfare of the district sent up a proposal to the Commissioner of the Division under the provision of the Cess Act for the separation of Howrah in Road Cess affairs from Hooghly. The necessity of such a separation was long felt and we believe it was on the representation of the inconvenience and injustice pre-eminently to the people of the District of Howrah and Sub-division of Mahishrekha the provision about separation was made clear in the new Cess Act. The power of ordering such a separation rests with the Lieutenant-Governor but Mr. Ravenshaw the Commissioner of the Budwan Division instead of submitting the proposal to Government sent it to the Collector of Hooghly for discussion at a meeting of the District Road Cess Committee which once rejected the proposal. The matter came on at the last meeting held on the 3rd instant. In moving the proposition Mr. Buckland adduced with great clearness and ability facts and arguments which admitted of very little discussion. He was seconded by Babu Lolitmohun Singha and warmly supported by Babu Joykissen Mookerjea. Mr. Cornish admitting the arguments generally proposed an amendment to the effect that "the Chairman regrets that he was unable to support the proposal, but he considers that the Branch Committee was not fit to be entrusted with the expenditure of a large sum of money. This Committee do simply pledge itself to *making* an allotment in future years of at least as much money to Howrah and Mohishrekha roads as to the Hooghly and Serampore Sub-divisions." One of the members pointed out that the proposed amendment could be made without making it offensive to the members of the Branch Committee but he was not listened to. This was a great and uncalled for insult to the members of the Branch Committee some of whom were present at the meeting and we should not be surprised if they determine to resign their appointments in a body. The unpleasant feature of the proceedings did not however rest here. When the time for putting the question to the vote came Mr. Cornish sent for a Joint-Magistrate who was an ex-officio member and who was till then absent from the meeting and put the question to the vote. The members were equally divided and it was by the casting vote of the Chairman, that the amendment was carried. One of the members submitted that as another member did not understand a word of English the question at issue should be explained to him in Bengali, but he was sharply snubbed. In inaugurating the new Act the

Lieutenant Governor hoped that the meetings of the District Committees would be in future something better than sham but here is an instance of how the best intentions of Government are frustrated. How long will this state of things last?

When the Greek meets the Greek, then comes the tug of the war. Now that Mr. Buckland has girdled up his loins in the cause of Howrah, we feel confident that some good result will ensue. A few months back we gave figures to shew that gross injustice has been done by the Road Cess Committee of Hooghly to Howrah. Mr. Buckland is fully convinced of it and has strongly recommended the separation of Howrah from Hooghly for cess purposes. What surprises us most is the attitude of Mr. Cornish, the officiating Collector of Hooghly. He might have differed in opinion, but what led him to insult the Howrah Committee in a formal resolution we confess we cannot conceive. Some of the members of the Howrah Committee are also members of the Hooghly Committee, and if they are unfit for one Committee they ought to be held unfit for the other Committee. If the independent members of the Howah Committee have any spirit, they ought to bring to the notice of Government the conduct of Mr. Cornish. The proceedings of Mr. Cornish it would appear were characterized by the grossest irregularity and arbitrariness. When he found that he could not command a majority, our correspondent states he sent for a "Joint" to swell his ranks, and with his aid there was a tie, and he gave his casting vote in favour of his own motion, and thus carried the day. There was one member who did not understand English, and the Chairman was asked to explain the question to him in Bengali; the member who had the audacity to make this suggestion was summarily snubbed by Mr. Cornish. This is the way the proceedings of the Road Cess Committee are conducted in a metropolitan district like Hooghly. When the new Cess Act was passed Sir Ashley Eden said in reference to some remarks made in Council that he will see that the Cess Committees are not reduced to shams. Let us see what notice he will take of the arbitrary and capricious proceedings of the Chairman of the Hooghly Cess Committee. We hope Mr. Buckland, the Chairman of the Howrah Committee, who is an outspoken man, will make a full representation to Government on the subject.

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WE HAVE RECEIVED a report of the meeting of the land-holders of the Bhaugulpore Division regarding the Rent Bill. It was held in the hall of the Government school-building on the 31st December last, Raja Hurbullubnarain Sing Bahadur of Sonbursa presiding. We give below the proceedings:

There were present Raja Horbullab Narain Singh Bahadur of Sonbursa, Mr. William Grant zemindar and Indigo planter, Mr. William St. Clair Grant, Mr. T. C. Cartis, Mr. M. B. Morrison, Mr. P. F. Cauty of Purneah, Mr. A. T. Rickets, Rai Narendra Narain Singh Bahadur of Barwari, Dewan Bhikari Lall on behalf of Maharaja Sir Jai Mongul Singh Bahadur of Patsanda, Dewan Bhoobun Chunder Rai on behalf of Raja Leelanund Singh Bahadur of Purneah, Dewan Keshi Lall Misser on behalf of Raja Ram Narain Singh of Khyra, Babu Purna Chandra Sing on behalf of Mohashoy, Tarucknath Ghose of Bhagulpur, Babu Brojo Mohun Thakoor, Babu Harimohun Thakur, and Babu Sirimohun Thakur of Bhagulpore, Babus Tej Narain of Bhagulpore, Kulesh Chundra Pande on behalf of Rani Khuna Sundari of Pakour in the Sontal Pergannas, Roushon Lall on behalf of Thakurani Makham Kumari of Luchmipur, Modhusudon Singh, Amerproshad Singh, Narsingprosad and Bhupnarain Singh of Punjwara in Tappa Mondir, Bhagulpur, Nundlal Chowdhry of Kharara in Tappupettor Bhagulpur, Sakhi Chand on behalf of Rai Luchmiput Singh Bahadur and Rai Dhunput Singh Bahadur zemindars, Luchmiprosad Singh zemindar Monghyr, Hurgouri Prosad, Tarini Proshad, Dwarkanath Chuckerbutti, Suryanarain Singh, Gopalchunder Sircar, Soshibhushun Mukerjee, Brojendronath Mookerjee, Assistant manager of Raja Leelanand Singh's estates, Runglal Singh, Opendrochunder Singh, Moulvi Syad Imdad Ali, Moulvi Sharif Alum, Sheik Izzad Buksh of Monghyr, Roghunath Sahni, Mohesh Lal, Denonath Chowdhry of Colgong and other zemindars of Bhagulpur and Monghyr. Maharaja Sir Jaimongul Singh Bahadoor and Raja Ramnarain Singh were unavoidably absent, but they wrote letters expressive of cordial sympathy with the object of the meeting and sent their respective dewans to represent themselves.

Raja Harballabnarain Singh Bahadur was unanimously voted to the chair.

The chairman opened the proceedings by explaining the object of the meeting, and reading the letters received and in suitable words moved the first resolution.

I. "That this meeting is of opinion that many of the provisions of the draft Rent Bill are opposed to the rights guaranteed to the landholders by the laws relating to the Permanent Settlement of Bengal and Behar."

This resolution was seconded by Dewan Bhikari Lal on behalf of Maharaja Sir Jaimangul Singh Bahadur K. C. S. I. and supported by Babu Tarini Proshad in an able manner. Moulvi Imdad Ali also spoke in support of it and it was unanimously carried. Rai Narendranarain Singh Bahadur moved the second resolution, and it was seconded by Babu Dwarkanath Chuckerbutti in very eloquent terms in English. It was to the following effect.

II. "That the said provisions do not fall within the purview of the reservation made in Section VIII Regulation I of 1793 which authorises the government to enact laws for the protection and welfare of defendant talukdars, ryots and other cultivators of the soil."

Carried unanimously.

The third resolution was proposed by Dewan Bhubun Chunder Rai on behalf of Raja Leelanund Singh Bahadur who could not attend the meeting on account of a permanent illness and it was seconded by Babu Suryanarain Singh. It ran as follows:

III. "That assuming the said provisions to come within the scope of the aforesaid reservation or admitting the power of the legislature to enact any laws it may please independently of such reservation, this meeting is of opinion that the said provisions of the draft Bill affecting as they do very prejudicially the rights enjoyed by landholders from a long time under existing laws and customs can only be justified under circumstances of grave necessity and not upon mere theoretical ideas as to the fitness of things and that no such necessity has been made out and no necessity does actually exist for any interference with the law of landlord and tenant in force in this division, much less for the enactment of the extreme measure embodied in the draft Bill."

Carried unanimously.

Babu Srimohun Thakur moved the fourth resolution.

IV. "That this meeting is of opinion that while the draft Rent Bill deprives the landholders of rights of a very valuable character and offers new rights and privileges to ryots, it does not give any thing substantial, in return to the former class."

Babu Hurgouri Proshad in glowing terms pointed out the one-sided character of the measure and the absence of any adequate compensating provisions in favor of the landholders. Mr. William St. Clair Grant in well chosen words supported this resolution which was also unanimously carried.

The fifth resolution was moved by Babu Hurimohun Thakur and it was seconded by Babu Kuleshchunder Pande of Pakour. The seconder pointed out that the present head of the Government of Bengal was known to be a just Governor, and that a memorial to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, he was sure, would have the effect of protecting the existing rights of the zemindars which had been so ruthlessly invaded by the majority of the Rent Commission. The resolution was as follows:

V. That this meeting unanimously resolves to protest against the draft Rent Bill and to approach His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal with a respectful memorial on the subject." The sixth resolution which was to the following effect was moved by Mr. Rickets and it was seconded by Babu Gopalchunder Sircar.

VI. That a Committee consisting of the following individuals with power to add to their number be formed for the purpose of preparing the memorial, obtaining signature to it and forwarding the same to the Bengal Government when signed.

1. Maharaja Sir Jaimangal Singh Bahadur K. C. S. I. zemindar of Monghyr. 2. Raja Harballabnarain Singh Bahadur, zemindar of Bhagulgur and Monghyr. 3. Raja Ramnarain Singh, zemindar of Monghyr. 4. Rai Norendernarain Singh. Zemindar of Bhagulpur. 5. Edward Tayler Esq., Manager of Raja Leelanund Singh's estates. 6. William Grant Esq., zemindar and Indigo planter, Bhagulpur, Monghyr and Sontal Pergannas. 7. James Henderson Esq., zemindar and Indigo planter, Maldah. 8. Brojo Mohun Thakur. 9. Hari Mohun Thukur. 10. Surohari Lal. 11. Tejnarain. 12. Purnachunder Singh. 13. Dewan Bhubanchunder Roy. 14. Karticnath Panday. 15. Brojomohun Das. 16. Opendrochunder Singh. 17. Kunjlal gomashta of Hirday Narain. 18. Sukhichand. 19. Syad Nawab Ali Khan Bahadur of Hosainabad, Monghyr. 20. Tareshchunder Pande of Pakour. 21. Hurgouri Proshad. 22. Tarini Proshad. 23. Dwarkanath Chuckerbutty. 24. Suryanarain Singh. 25. A. S. Rickets Esq. 26. Soshibhusun Mukerjee. 27. Kamar Padmanand Singh Bahadur. The meeting which was a very successful one was dissolved with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Sakhichand and carried unanimously.

It affords us great satisfaction to observe that Behar is shewing much vitality on the subject of the Rent Bill. We hope Bengal and Behar will pull together, for the interests of both are identical.

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THE RESULTS of the F. A. and Entrance Examinations of the University of Calcutta for the year 1880 have been published. They show that in the Little-go 361 out of 9831 candidates have passed and in the Entrance Examination 1664 out of 2792. In the first, 37 have passed in the First Division 137 in the 2nd and 224 in the 3rd Division. In the Entrance Examination 416 have passed in the 1st Division, 952 in the 2nd Division and 296 in the 3rd Division. In the F. A. Examination the palm of victory is carried by the Presidency College which has passed 11 in the 1st Division, two of whom occupy the 1st and 2nd places therein, 19 in the 2nd Division and 21 in the 3rd Division. The Metropolitan Institution of Calcutta comes out as the 2nd best, it has passed 4 in the 1st Division, one of whom shares equally the honor of the 3rd place, with the Presidency College, 20 in the 2nd Division and 25 in the 3rd Division. The General Assembly's Institution is the 3rd best. It has passed two in the 1st Division, 15 in the 2nd Division and 42 in the 3rd Division. Of the other Colleges Dacca has passed 3 in the 1st Division, Sanskrit College 2, Hooghly 2, Muir College 2, Canning College 2, and Free Church Institution, Jubbulpore High School, Lahore College, Chittagong College, Ajmere College, Cathedral Mission College, Doveton College, Ravenshaw College and Agra College have passed one each. The unusal good result of the Entrance Examination, we are inclined to believe, is due to the fact of there being now a fixed textbook in English literature, for which Dr. Rajendralala Mitra had fought so hard. Three young native ladies from the Bethune Female School were candidates at the Entrance Examination of whom two have passed one in the first division and the other in the second. In F. A. two Christian ladies from the Allahabad Girls' High School have passed in the first division one native lady from the Free Church Normal School has passed in the second division, and another native lady from the Bethune Female School has passed in the third division.

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WE publish in another column a third letter from 'A Member of the Roman Akshara Sabha,' who has now changed the last word into Samaj. It is, like its immediate predecessor, open to the serious charge of want of candour. Our correspondent emphatically denies "any one having ever said that the Roman alphabet should be adopted for all the languages and dialects current on the earth," and adds that "the Principal of the Sanskrit College, on the other hand, spoke of a single character for the *civilized* world." Are these facts? Is our correspondent not aware that Lipsius' scheme was put forth expressly for all the languages of the earth, civilized and uncivilized? And has he correctly quoted the opinion of the Principal of the Sanskrit College—an opinion backed by Mr. J. F. Browne, who has originated the Sabha or Sumaj, whatever it be? If he will refer to the Principal's letter in our issue of November 29, page 560, column 3, line 3, he will find the fundamental position was "WHETHER IT IS DESIRABLE OR NOT TO HAVE ONE AND THE SAME CHARACTER IN USE IN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, OR AT LEAST OVER AS LARGE AN AREA AS POSSIBLE." The Principal next said, "few, I believe, will be inclined to answer in the negative the first question viz., whether it is desirable to have ONE AND THE SAME CHARACTER ALL OVER THE WORLD. The advantages of having ONLY ONE CHARACTER IN THE WORLD are, indeed, almost too obvious to need specification." Again, "when we calmly consider the advantages that would accrue in the future by the employment of one and the

same character by all the different nations of the world, the facility in the acquisition of foreign languages that it would bring about, the closer union in which it would join peoples of different countries" &c. One of these passages we quoted in our last, but to no purpose. Says G. A. S. of the *I. D. News* : "Evidently it is so much labour lost in trying to set up as a seller of spectacles. There are people who persist in making their own, and in tinting them to the precise hue, and none other, which they are determined to patronise." Writing in reply to the arguments of the Principal we pointed out the difficulties which presented themselves before us in connection with Lipsius' scheme. Our correspondent quietly, but very disengenuously, shifts his ground, says the object of the Sabha is limited to the languages of India only, and then accuses us "of exaggeration, and going far beyond the scope of the argument." We cannot congratulate him on his tactics. Then, whom are we to believe? Mr. J. F. Browne and the Principal who have given out their names, or our correspondent who withholds his, and appears anonymously?

Accepting the limited area of our correspondent, we join issue with him on all the points he has mooted. He says, "it is easier to mark the fact of certain new sounds being given to characters with which one is already familiar, than to learn entirely new characters." It is not so. Notwithstanding Gallic supremacy in England for some time and the familiar intercourse of many centuries, Englishmen have not yet been able to master the new sounds attached to their familiar letters by Frenchmen; and the new sound of ch proposed to be attached to c in the scheme adopted by the Sabha will never be adopted by Englishmen. No Englishman, except Mr. Browne and some, not all, of his associates, will pronounce Ramacandar, as Ramachunder, and not Ramakandar. The confusion which the use of the same letters with different sounds will cause will amount to a positive nuisance. Again, our correspondent says, "the first three vowels and the palatal consonants are the only letters that present any important difference in sound." It is not so; the dental t and th are also phonetically quite different. As regards his arguments ranged sermon like into firstly, secondly, and so on, about the adaptation of the English alphabet, (for the sake of accuracy we decline to call it Roman) we must reserve our remarks until the scheme of the Sabha orSamaj is matured and authoritatively published. At present it is too nebulous to be worth writing about. We decline to take up his challenge to produce a better alphabet for all the world than the Roman one, because we believe no alphabet can be so adapted, but we hold that the Roman alphabet is an exceedingly defective one, far inferior for our purposes to the Sanskrit. One may pass paste for diamond, but it does not become diamond. We have already pointed out that the Roman alphabet is insufficient, defective, wanting in precision, and very confusing. We may add that to the natives it will prove very costly and troublesome. Our Bengali is cheaper, convenient, precise, well-understood, and fully adequate for all our wants. It requires no pronouncing dictionaries to help it; it is easily written, cheaply composed, occupies less space in print, and its types are more lasting than those of the Roman character. If we give it up for the sake of our correspondent and his followers, we shall have to reprint the whole of our literature to the extent of many thousand volumes, get millions of our school-books reprinted, the whole of our zemindari papers, title-deeds, and documents recast; have officers trained for adopting the new system,and then leave the masses entirely cut off from our literature and business papers for centuries to come. And having effected all these changes we will have the satisfaction of knowing that we have succeeded in attaching new values to the Roman letters, and helping young Englishmen to murder our names by pronouncing Ramchunder Ramkandar. No, there is another advantage, and that is, a few Civilians will be enabled to pass their vernacular examinations more readily than at present. Bacon says, there are men who will burn down a village to poach an egg, and such men are not rare in India. Umichand, the dupe of Clive was not the last of the Mohicans. "Thereth nothing in thith Univerth like moonthine."

# COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

*Saturday, 8th January*, 1881.

Since the commencement of the new year, there has been more animation in some of our commercial markets, chiefly in the Import, in which a considerable amount of business has been done in Piece-goods and Yarns, both on the spot and for arrival, at prices higher than we have had for some time past, but country manufactured yarns have rather been in less demand and prices have in consequence of heavy arrivals from Bombay been affected

Exports.—Indigo: During the week four public sales were held and 3784 chests found buyers at previous rates which have been well sustained throughout the period.

Jute market since the last 2 or 3 days has been very firm and a large amount of transactions took place at somewhat enhanced rates, which ranged from low to good 3-7 @ 5-1.

Oil-seeds.—Linseed three hundred tons of the new crop sold for forward delivery in March and April at 4-4 per Bazar maund and some parcels for immediate delivery @ 4-6.

Rice.—There has been a fair amount of transactions done in Table and Ballam sorts chiefly.

MONETARY.

There has been no change made in the rates of interest or discount by the Bank of Bengal at the last meeting of its Directors.

GOVT. SECURITIES.

There has been a fair amount of business done in this market and prices after some fluctuations were firm at the close at Rs 101 to 101-2 for 4 per cent. and 109-10 to 109-12 for 4½.

JOINT-STOCK SHARES.

Nothing of importance has transpired in these.

# Correspondence.

## ROMANIZATION OF INDIAN ALPHABETS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—The position I took in my last letter was that the Roman alphabet successfully expresses the sounds of a number of different languages in Europe, partly by having recourse to ingenious combinations, and partly by the occasional use of accents. The fact that some of its letters have different sounds in different languages is no bar to its utility. People who use this argument seem to forget that in learning a foreign language one also learns the character in which it is written, and it is easier to master the fact of certain new sounds being given to characters with which one is already familiar than to learn entirely new characters. As a matter of fact the letters of the Roman alphabet which have different sounds in different languages, are comparatively few. The first three vowels and the palatal consonants are the only letters that present any important differences in sound.

This brings us to your second argument in which you deny that the Roman alphabet is best for general use or rather you say (going far beyond the scope of the argument) that it is not the best far use all over the world. No one ever said it was, though we might challenge the world to produce better. If we confine ourselves to the problem before us, namely the application of the Roman alphabet to the Indian languages, the bugbear of Lepsius's standard alphabet and its 186 characters, each representing a distinct sound, vanishes at once. We have only to ask how many of those 186 characters represent sounds in Indian languages. We have nothing to do with Kafer clicks, Semetic pectorals, Mongalian musical tones, nor the various snorts, grunts and wheezings which enter into the language of inconsiderate savage tribes. We have to deal with the cultivated, already articulated languages of the great Aryan family. Lepsius's 186 characters then dwindle down to a very small number, and your idea that 163 characters would be required and the 26 Roman symbols would have to be ornamented in proportion with dots dashes and hooks will be shown to be quite unsupported by the facts of the case.

Let us see how many sounds the Indian alphabets have —all told. The alphabets can be so arranged that analysis is easy, and the sounds are so simple that there is no room for doubt about them. The letters can be arranged according to the organs of speech, each organ has a sound and a sonet, aspirated and unaspirated. Thus we have four gutturals, four palatals, four linguals, four labials and four dentals in all twenty sounds. Then we have 5 nasals making five more, and five seme vowels y r l v lh (Mahratta and Gujarati). Add to these three sebilants and an aspiration, and the total number of consonants comes to 34. There are 6 simple vowels, long and short, and four dipthongs eo a i on, giving 10 vowels sounds. Besides these 44 sounds there are two vowels the short e and o used in the Dravidian languages, and which have crept into some of the Aryan ones also. Finally there is the non-Aryan burr, a sort of deep pectoral r or rh and a nasal breathing (Anunasika or Chandra Bindu) making up the whole number of Indian sounds to 48, or little more than one-fifth of the Lepsius alphabet.

Against this number of 48 sounds we have 26 Roman letters. With reference to the subject of "excrescences" as you call them I would point out a few important facts.

Firstly, the Indian alphabets have not all of them the full range of characters for 48 sounds. No alphabet of the Aryan tongues has character for the short e and o. If therefore the Hindi language when written in Nagara or Kayathi characters can do without separate symbols for these sounds, ff in Hindee ek and jehi can both be written with the same the same may be done in Romanizing, and the total of sounds is thus reduced to forty-six.

Secondly, the above total is practically reduced to 36, because in Roman the letter n can be used without the slightest inconvenience to represent the aspirated consonants as well as the aspirate by itself.

Thirdly, the only letters out of the 38 which would have to be represented by separate symbols are the long vowels a i u the cerebral t, d, the burr r, the cerebral l (Mahratta, Guzerati, Urya?) one of the two sh's, the guttura palatal and cerebral, nasals and the anunasika. Twelve ex crescences as you call them in all would be required or I should rather say nine only for the accents are used by many European nations, and can hardly be called excrescences.

Fourthly, out of the aforesaid nine extra symbols only five need be at all often used, viz those for cerebral t and d, the burr r, and in two or three languages the cerebral l. The remaining four would as we shall be able to show in our third and last letter be very rarely used.

From the above remarks it follows that your hundred and sixty new letters or hooks and spurs and dots and dashes come down to the very modest figure of nine, out of which only five would often be required. Your statement of the case is therefore, as your readers will easily perceive, not a little exaggerated.

A MEMBER OF THE ROMAN-AKSHARA SAMAJ

*P. S.*—Since writing the above I have perused your interminying article in your issue of the 27th December. I see you still persist in mere persiflage, tell Bahva Bahva stories, and harp on the worn out theme, of English nonphonetic spelling. It does not, however, appear to me that you have materially shaken our two minor propositions, 1st that the Roman character has not been a failure wherever it has been used as you so rashly assert, 2nd that the use of the numerous alphabets of India was not caused by the variety of local sounds which obey no order of high priests and officials, satraps and kings."

I must however try and set you right on one point. What we said was that an ideal alphabet containing sufficient characters or symbols to express exactly *every human sound in human speech* was a chimera, and so it is. The Principal of the Sanscrit College, on the other hand, spoke of a single character for the *civilized* world. That id a is by no means chimerical, and is based on the by no means unreasonable hopes of many practical and earnest men.

# Government Notifications.

**Calcutta Gazette,**—*January* 5, 1881.

GENERAL.—Mr J E B Jeffery Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore having resumed charge of his duties on the forenoon of the 7th instant, the unexpired portion of the leave granted him under orders of the 31st August last, is cancelled.

Babu Khetter Mohun Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870, and with the power to hear appeals under Act VII (B C) of 1870.

Mr J Tweedie District and Sessions Judge Dacca, who reported his return from furlough on the 27th instant, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahye during the absence, on deputation, of Mr T T Allen, or until further orders.

Mr J F Bradbury, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy collector of the 24-Pergunnahs is appointed to act until further orders, in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Furreedpore.

Babu Adhar Lal Sen Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore is allowed leave for five days under Section 17A of the civil Leave Code, in extension of that granted to him under the orders of the 9th ultimo.

Babu Kali Nath Bose Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Mymensing is transferred to the district of Bhagulpore.

Babu Rakhal Das Mookerjee Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is transferred to the district of Mymensing.

Mr A W Mackie Officiating Assistant commissioner, Palamow Lohardugga is transferred to the sudder station of that district on being relieved of his present appointment by Mr R H Renny.

Babu Shamadhub Roy Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector on special duty, is posted to Hooghly.

Mr. E. McL. Smith, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, Jamtara Sonthal Pergunnahs on leave is posted temporarily to Pakour in that district.

# Advertisements.


## NOTICE

The Garden Party at Belvedere which was postponed from Monday the 3rd will take place on Monday the 10th instant, and the Garden Party of Monday the 17th will be postponed till Monday the 24th instant.

Belvedere, 8th January, 1881. } GUY. CAMPBELL, A. D. C.

NOTICE.—Orders for Murray's Plate, Metal and Furniture Polishes, and Page and Rodgers' Antimoth, (an absolute protection from Moths, mildew, and infection) will be thankfully received by,

KOONJO BEHARY DHUR,
Sole Agent for India,
65, Ezra Street.

FOR SALE

The durputnee right in Mouzah Kaleepahareea Coal bearing tract of upwards of 1000 Beegahs on the Right bank of Barrakur River opposite Railway Station. Tenders are invited by

MOHESH CHUNDRA BOSE.
Supt. of Messrs. Burn & Co., Jehanabad, in the Gya State Railway.

## WANTED.

A third Master for the Shibpur Higher Class English School, salary Rs. 25 to 30 a month. None need apply who has not passed F. A. Examination. Apply to Babu Raj Coomar Sen, Department of Finance.

## Notice.

### RAMMOHUN ROY MEMORIAL MEETING.

A meeting in memory of Rajah Rammohun Roy will be held at our house at Jorasanko on Sunday the 16th instant corresponding to 4th Maugh next at 3 P. M. The public are respectfully invited on the occasion. The following is the programme of business.

1.—Election of a Chairman.
2.—Hymns.
3,—Opening of the meeting by Babu Dijender Nath Tagore.
4.—An address on the greatness of Rajah Rammohun Roy by Babu Nogender Nath Chatterjee.
5.—Hymns.

After the meeting is over the assembled gentlemen will go to the Adi Brahmo Somaj and there chant a hymn in chorus.

DIJENDERNATH TAGORE.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

For the relief of soldiers who have been disabled and of the families of those who have died during the war in Afghanistan.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amount already advertised ..... | Rs. | 32,255 |
| Algernon W. Watkins Esqr..... ..... | ,, | 100 |
| *Per Commissioner of Bhaugulpore.* | | |
| Maharaja Sir Joy Mungal Singh Bahadur, K. C. S. I..... | Rupees. | 1,100 |
| Raja Leelanund Singh ..... | | 1,000 |
| Raja Ramnarain Singh ..... | | 1,000 |
| Moulvie Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur ..... | | 500 |
| Babu Surendranarain Singh ..... | | 500 |
| Raja Harbullubnarain Singh Bahadur... | | 250 |
| Babu Taresh Chunder Pande ..... | | 250 |
| Maharaja Gopal Chunder Singh ..... | | 200 |
| Mohunt Hunsgeer Gossain ..... | | 200 |
| Babu Shib Chunder Banerjee ..... | | 50 |
| ,, Juggernath Sahoy, Hony. Magte. Sheikpura ..... | | 25 |
| ,, Shib Sahai, Dewan of Moulvie Ali Khan ..... | | 25 |
| ,, Surya Narain Singh..... | | 20 |
| ,, Tarini Prosad..... | | 20 |
| ,, Hurgoury Prosad ..... | | 20 |
| Moulvie Imdad Ali Khan Bahadur ..... | | 20 |
| Babu Bhowani Sahai ..... | | 5 |
| | | 5,185 |
| Total Rs..... | | 37,540 |

Calcutta, 8th January, 1881. H. W. I. WOOD, Hony. Treasurer.

### NOTICE.

Persons exercising any Trade, Profession or Calling within the Town are reminded that they should at once apply for Licenses in accordance with the Third Schedule of Act IV. (B. C.) of 1876 for the year 1881 as all Licenses granted in 1880 expired on the 31st of December last.

Notice is hereby given that under Section 67 of Act IV (B.C.) of 1876 Licenses for Carriages, Horses Ponies or Mules kept within the Town for the half-year commencing from 1st of January 1881 should be taken out at once. Parties failing to take out Licenses will be prosecuted without further notice.

SCHEDULE.

| | Per *Half-year.* Rs. | As. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| For every four-wheeled carriage drawn by two horses ... | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| If more than one such carriage, then for every such carriage after the first, two-thirds of the above rate ... | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| For every four-wheeled carriage drawn by one horse, or pony or mule, or a pair of ponies or mules under thirteen hands ... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| If more than one such carriage, then for every such carriage after the first, two-thirds of the above rate ... | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| For every two-wheeled carriage ... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| For every horse (*not a race horse*) pony, or mule ... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| For every race horse ... | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| For every pony or mule under thirteen hands | 2 | 0 | 0 |

NOTE.—Animals under eleven hands in height and carriages, the wheels of which do not exceed twenty-four inches in diameter, are exempted.

### NOTICE.

Is hereby given that the registration of Carts, Hackeries, and other wheeled Vehicle without springs for the first half-year of 1881 will under Section 83 of Act IV (B. C.) of 1876 commence from the 1st of January 1881 and a fee of Rs. 4 will be required at the time for each registration under Section 85 of Act IV (B. C,) of 1876.

By order.
M. R. SHIRCORE,
License Officer.

*PROVISION for Old Age combined with a PROVISION for the WIDOW and ORPHAN.*

**EXAMPLE.**

A Civilian, European or Native, aged 2 next birthday, wishes to lay apart a sum o about THIRTEEN RUPEES a month in such a way that his savings will be securely invested until the time of his retirement from Service: and that should he die beforehand, a provision will be secured for his relations. By payment of a sum of Rs. 163-0-0 per annum (or at the rate of about Rs. 13-0-0 per mensem) as the premium for an Endowment Assurance, he will become entitled to Rs. 5,000 on attaining age 55 ; and should he die before attaining that age—even after payment of only one year's subscription—the full sum of Rs 5,000 will be paid to his representatives. [Vide Table III. of Prospectus.]

*The same Provision, if commenced.*

at age 25, would cost about Rs. 15 a month ;
at age 30, ,, ,, about Rs. 18 a month ;
at age 35, ,, ,, about Rs. 21 a month ;
at age 40, ,, ,, about Rs. 28 a month ;
at age 45, ,, ,, about Rs. 41 a month ;

*The rates for other Ages, also for Endowments payable at Ages 45, 50, and 60, and all further information, may be obtained on application. Premiums can be paid half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly, at slightly increased rates.*

There is an obvious advantage in effecting Investments of this nature *early in life* :—by delay the rate of subscription increases ;—death may occur before the intended provision is made ;—or health may fail and render the ife ineligible for Assurance.

N. B.—Every Payment of Premium carries its Proportionate values, which cannot Lapse, and for which a Promissory Note is granted

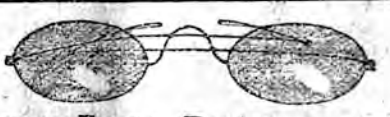
ORIENTAL LIFE COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE, BOMBAY. MANAGER AND ACTUARY:

D. McLAUCHLAN SLATER, F I.A.

D. M. DASS,
*Agent Calcutta,*
31, *Peepulputty Road.*

Now Ready, Russick Lall Sircar's Complete, Analytically Explanatory Key to the Entrance Course for 1881, full of modern grammatical and explanatory notes, bound in one vol. Price with postage Rs 2-2, to be had of the Author, at "The Cottage," No. 21 Chasadhobapara Road via Barranagore Post Office (where only money orders are to be made payable) in the North Suburbs of Calcutta, and of Dr. B. M. Sircar, No. 77, Mooktaram Babu's Street, Chorebagan, Calcutta.



**Save your Eyes! Restore your Sight!**

Mullick's well suited spectacles and eye glasses have been proved by thousands to be the best and the cheapest ever offered to the public.

| | | *Steel.* | *Silver.* | *Gold.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pebbles, Concave, Convex spectacles... | Rs. | 6 | 8 | 22 |
| Neutral tint Ditto Ditto ..... | ,, | 5 | 7 | 20 |
| Crystal Ditto Ditto .... | ,, | 3 | 6 | 18 |
| Neutral tint D shape Ditto eye Preserver | ,, | 5 | 10 | 25 |

*Packing and postage ans* 8.

Spectacles for cataract sight and of various kinds and make to be had.

37, Swallow Lane, Calcutta. MULLICK & Co.

**READY.**

NOTES ON GREEN'S PROSE READINGS FROM ENGLISH HISTORY, PART III.

By Bholanauth Paul, M. A., Head-master Hindu School. Price Rs. 2, postage 2 annas. To be had at the Central Library, 57, College Street ; the Canning Library, 55, College Street; and of Puddo Chunder Nath, Old Chinabazar Street.

### NOTICE.

Tenders are hereby requested for a timber bridge over the Daoni river at Baragari on the Gharamara-Cheelie road in the Rungpur District, and for earth-work 1,06,86,285 c. ft. for raising and widening the road.

Timber bridge 400 ft. of 20 spans of 20 ft. each to be made of Salwood and parts exposed to the sun to be made of Teak wood.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned.

Rungore Dated The 29th December 1880. A. E. STALEY, *Vice-Chairman, Dist., Road Cess Committee, Rungpur.*

## SCHOOL AND COLLEGE BOOKS

ON SALE AT THE

**Central Library, 57 College Street.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Student's Guide to English, Idioms. By Bhola Nath Paul ... | Rs. | 3 | 4 |
| Notes on Green's Histl. Readings Pt. III By Bhola Nath Paul ... ... | ,, | 2 | 2 |
| The Student's Compn. to Arithmetic with Ans. .... ... ... | ,, | 0 | 13 |
| ——— Algebra ... | ,, | 0 | 11. |
| Solutions of Todhunter's Geoml. Problems ... ... ... ... | ,, | 0 | 13 |

Particulars on application to Debendro Nath Ghose.

### DARJEELING STEAM TRAMWAY CO.

Subject to the inspection and approval of the Government Consulting Engineer a further portion of this Tramway namely from Kurseong to Sonada will be opened for Traffic on the 15th January 1881.

GILLANDERS ARBUTHNOT & Co.,
Secretaries.

31st December 1880.

### P. W. D.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Contractors willing to tender for repairs to Public Buildings at Dacca to be finished during the current official year can obtain further particulars from the Executive Engineer, Dacca Division.

W. B. BESTIC, C. E.
Asistant Engineer.
For Ex. Engineer, Dacca Division.

### COLLEGE REUNION.

The College Reunion takes place for the third time, at the well known "Emerald Bower" of the Hon'ble Maharajah Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C. S. I. on the 4th of February next—the day after the Sarasvati Puja. The following gentlemen compose the office-bearers of the Reunion, with power to add to their number:—

The Hon'ble Maharajah Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C. S. I.
Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, LL. D., C. I. E.
The Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal Bahadur C. I. E.
Babu Juggodish Nath Roy.
,, Issur Chunder Mitter Rai Bahadur.
Mr. Omesh Chunder Dutt.
Babu Baikantha Nath Bose.
Maharajah Narendra Krishna Bahadur.
Babu Keshub Chunder Sen.
,, Narendranath Sen.
,, Ram Sunker Sen, Rai Bahadur,
B. L. Goopta Esqr., C. S.
Mono Mohun Ghose Esqr.
Lal Mohun Ghose Esqr.
Babu Hem Chunder Kerr, Rai Bahadur.
Dr. Kannie Lal Dey, Rai Bahadur.
Babu Nimai Churn Bose, Rai Bahadur.
,, Srinath Chunder.
Rajah Sourendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C. I. E. *Honorary Secy.*
Babu Khagendranath Roy, *Honorary Asstt. Secy.*
,, Nobin Chunder Mookerjee, *Honorary Treasurer.*

Gentlemen wishing to read short poems at the Reunion should send in the same to the Assistant Secretary on or before the 15th January next. The Committee of the Reunion reserve to themselves the right of selecting poems sent for perusal. The following will be the programme of the day.

1. Instrumental music, Sarada, Setar, Sur Bahar Kanun, Nastarang, Flute, (Bengali Bansi) &c. &c.
2. Vocal music, Dhrupada, Tappa, Khayal, Kirtan &c. &c.
3. Plays, Farce, Rasas of the Hindus, with Murtti and Vrindakka or Tableux and Dramatic Pieces, illustrating their character.
4. Gaiby Chess Play.
5. Sajib Chaturung *i. e.* to say living people in proper characters will represent the balls.
6. Various games such as cards, chess, dice &c. &c.

As usual, there will be proper refreshments for the assembled guests. Printed cards of admission to be had at the "Hindu Patriot" Press, the "Indian Mirror" Press, of Babu Khagendra Nath Roy, at No. 6, Juggodish Nath Roy's Lane, Simla, Calcutta and of Babu Troylucko Nath Banerjee at the Senate House. The value of a ticket is only 1 Re. The proceedings of the day will commence at 4 A. M., and end at 9½ P. M.

মহম্মদ মহসীনের জীবনচরিত মূল্য চারি আনা চুচুড়া সাধারনীযন্ত্রে পাওয়া যাইবে।

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## Notice.

The Krishnaghur Agricultural Exhibition will open on the 3rd of February 1881 Prizes as usual will be awarded to the exhibitor of best specimens of agricultural and indigenous manufactured produce &c.

JUDONATH CHATTERJEE,
Secretary.

Krishnaghur, 11th December 1880.

## Notice.


"Sylhet, what I have seen, read and heard of it; By Shumbhoo Chunder Dey, Price 12 annas.

My Leisure Hours, by the same, price (reduced) 4 annas. To be had of Messrs. G. P. Roy & Co., 21, Bow Bazar Street, and of Babu Shib Chunder Dey, Hooghly Judge's-Court."

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This is a well known preparation of the age (preferable to Cod Liver Oil and Sarsaparilla) to get strength and fat, purify the blood, improve the health and recover the life from wasting diseases.

It is agreeable to the palate, innocent in its action, and as a specific for the speedy and permanent cure of Piles, Anæmia, Spleen, Female complaints, Eruptions of the Skin, impoverished blood, impaired sight and memory, Rheumatism, Palpitation of the Heart, Loss of Energy and Appetite, impaired nutrition, General Debility, Constipation, Indigestion, Nervous Debility and Consumption (in its incipient or first stages only.)

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**Discovered and so named, A. D. 1862, by R. D. LALOR, M. D.**

Pure Solution of PHOSPHORUS in combination with Quinia Cypripiden and Xanthoxylin, wonder of Modern Chemistry, free from Strychnia, and all Dangerously Active Drugs pleasant to the taste, and the only Safe, Prompt, and Reliable PHOSPHORIC REMEDY for overworked Brain, Worry, Anxiety, Excitement, Late Hours, Business Pressure, Nervous Prostration, Nerve Pain, Wasting Diseases, Asthmatic, Consumptive, Stomach and Liver complaints, Impaired Nutrition, Impoverished Blood, Premature Decline, and all morbid conditions of the system, dependent upon the deficiency of the Vital Forces.

**Dr. Lalor's Phosphodyne.**

Purifies and Enriches the Blood; Clears the Skin; thoroughly invigorates the Brain, Nerves, and Muscles; Re-energises the Failing Functions of Life by supplying the PHOSPHORIC element which has been wasted, and thus Imparts Energy and Fresh Vitality to the exhausted Nerve-Electric Force, and Rapidly cures every form of Nervous Debility, Paralysis, Nervous Mind and Heart Diseases, from whatever cause.

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Being a natural RESTORATIVE, its Energising Effects are not followed by corresponding re-action; but are PERMANENT; and are frequently shown from the first day of its administration by a remarkable increase of Nervous Power, with a feeling of Vigour, Strength, and Comfort to which the patient has long been unaccustomed. Dr. LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE gives back to the Human structure in a suitable form the Phosphoric or Lively Animating element of life which has been wasted, and exerts an important influence directly on the BRAIN, SPINAL MARROW, and NERVOUS SYSTEM, of a Nutritive, Tonic, and Invigorating character; thereby checking all wasting of the Vital Fluid, and the more exhausting Processes of Life, maintaining that Buoyant Energy of the Brain and Muscular System which renders the MIND CHEERFUL, HAPPY, BRILLIANT, and ENERGETIC; entirely overcoming that Dull, Inactive, and Sluggish disposition which many persons experience in all their actions. A Marvellous vitalising Restorative for Brain Toilers, Clergymen Business Men, and all engaged in the Competitive Struggle.

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Ball, Hobson, & Co., Chemists, Umballa.
Rangoon Medical Hall 72, Merchant Street.
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One room..... ..... 36ft. × 18ft.
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One verandah room ... 24ft. × 10ft.
and tiled verandah on all sides.

The out offices are thatched buildings.

Deoghur is 3 miles from Baidynath Station East India Railway Chord Line.

Upset price Rs. 2100; offers will be received by the Executive Engineer Bhaugulpore up to 31st January 1881 from whom further particulars and terms of sale can be learnt on application.

Bhaugulpore, 22nd December 1880.


AMRITA CHOORNA.

A PANACEA

FOR

VARIOUS MALADIES.

THIS Medicine was formerly in a liquid form and known as the Amritarssa all over India and the adjacent countries. It is now converted into powder for reasons enumerated below.

1*stly.*—The qualities of the powder have been proved to supersede those of the liquid in an extraordinary degree. It is never spoilt if not mixed with water, whereas in liquid form the spoliation of the medicine occured at times, but the cause was quite invisible.

2*ndly.*—The guaranteed safety of this powder during transit by Post. About two years ago unusual numbers of phials broke while in transit and a heavy loss was sustained by me and others.

3*rdly.*—Packing and Postage charges of this medicine are exceedingly low now. Five sets of medicine in a single Tin cover can be sent on a postage of annas 4 only all over India, and the charges of packing for 5 sets of medicine are annas 4.

This medicine has been a great boon to the public of India and the adjacent countries from its power of curing the most obstinate diseases with an unparalleled success. It is infallible in the cure of the diseases of the Cranium, diseases of the Lungs, Pthisis, Asthma, Palpitation of the Heart, Acidity &c, Colic Pain, Chronic Fever, Spleen and Chest and Heart diseases such as Consumption Liver, Jaundice, Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Gout and Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Mercurial Taints, Blood diseases and those supposed to be irremediable.

It is the best specific for all sorts of female affections such as Dysmenorrhœa, Diseases after delivery, Menorrhagia, Hysteria, Fearful dreams, Delivery of still-born child and others and can be relied on as the safest medicine.

Hundreds of testimonials from gentlemen having occasion to try this medicine in themselves and in others have been published in the form of a Pamphlet in Bengali, and can be had on application.

The cost of each set of Amrita Choorna is Rs. 4 only. Packing charges 4 As. and Postage 4 As.

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Purchasers are requested to examine my trade mark on each side of the packet.

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INFALLIBLE CHOLERA PILLS.

This medicine is the best of its kind and gives immediate relief. More than 90 per cent. patients are being cured. The cost of fifty Pills, which can be administered in more than twenty cases is Rs. 3-8.

The pamphlet contains only the principal certificates bearing testimony to the efficaciousness both of Amritarasa and the Cholera Pills and can be had on application with one anna postage stamp for despatch by post.

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Cash Prices { Gold Medal, in Case ... ... ... .. Rs. 200
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It bears on the OBVERSE the head and bust of Her Majesty, within the legend "Victoria Empress," and on the REVERSE a raised Laurel Wreath only; thus leaving space for inscription. *Vide* Illustration.

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The Triumph of Industry Medal ..... Rs. 16 in case.
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,, .. 1½ ,, .. ... Rs. 14 ,,
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Have great pleasure in drawing attention to their recent importations of Hink's Patent Triple-action Single and Duplex Extinguisher Punkah Lamps. The Triple-action Burner removes the objectionable appearance of the old separate winder arrangement,—confers the power of raising and lowering each cotton separately, or both simultaneously. It will also burn directly under the Punkah or in a strong wind, and has the advantage over all others, that it burns equally well when the Punkah is not in action.

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| Do. Duplex ... ... ... | | | 25 0 |
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| Portico Windproof Lanterns.. ... | 13 8 | to | 17 8 |
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### Syrup of Hypophosphite of Lime.

The Diseases of the Chest, and the Consumption reputed incurable to this day will find an almost certain remedy in GRIMAULT &Co.'s Syrup of Hypophosphite of Lime; Asthma, Bronchitis, the different types of Cough, never resist to its salutary influence.

To distinguish GRIMAULT & Co.'sSyrup of Hypophosphite of Lime from numerous imitations made, the Genuine one is always Coloured in Rose.

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### Matico Capsules and Injection.

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A single powder of this vegetable production is sufficient to cure instantaneously the most violent Sick Headache. It is the most valuable remedy against Diarrhœa, Dysentery, and all disorders proceeding from derangement of Stomach or Bowels.

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For further particulars, apply to—

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THE STANDARD OFFICE affords every facility to persons desirous of effecting Assurances.

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**Special Notice.**

LIFE ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

**Bonus Year, 1880.**

THE Books for the current Quinquennial Period close on 31st December next, when the profits accrued during the five years will be ascertained and divided.

All Policies on the Participating Scale opened in 1880, will share in that Division, and at the close of each future Quinquennium will rank for a higher Bonus compared with later Entrants.

The Bonus is calculated not only on the Original sum Assured, but also on all existing Bonus Additions previously declared.

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The Progressive Improvement of the Life Assurance Department may be marked by contrasting the following results for the first four years of the past Quinquennial Period with those of the present Quinquennium, *viz.*—

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| 45 .. | 40 3 0 | 45 ... | 45 4 0 |
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